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CHILDREN'S DIGEST

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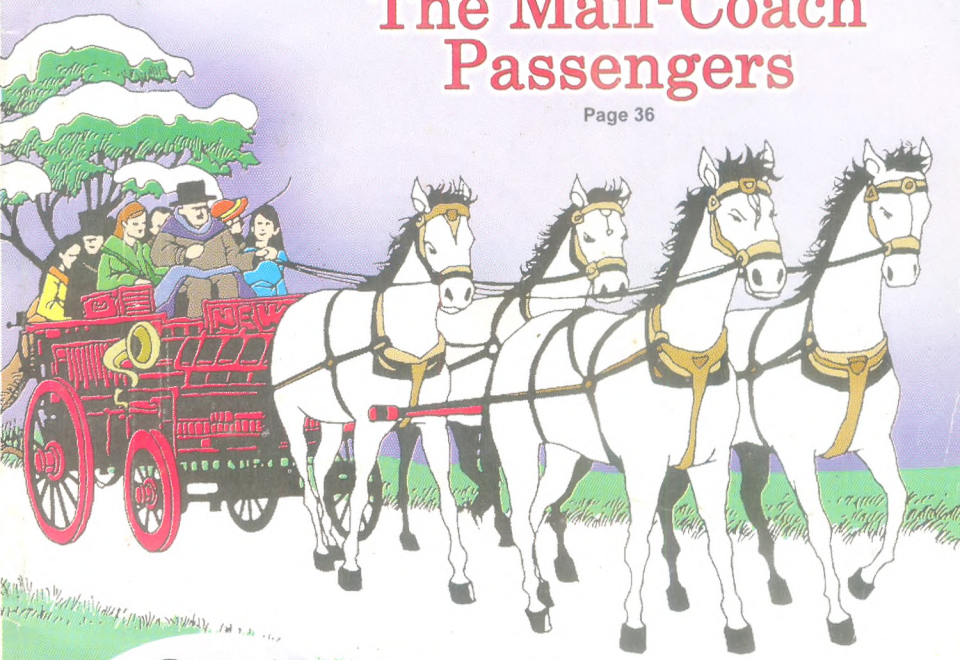

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NO. 1
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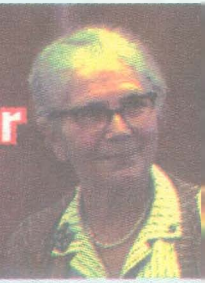

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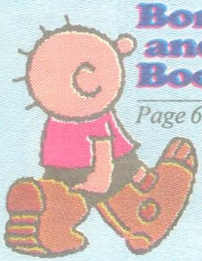

Thought for the Month

Trust the past to God's mercy,
The present to God's love,
And the future to God's providence.

- St. Augustine

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Sane Advice is Not for Fools

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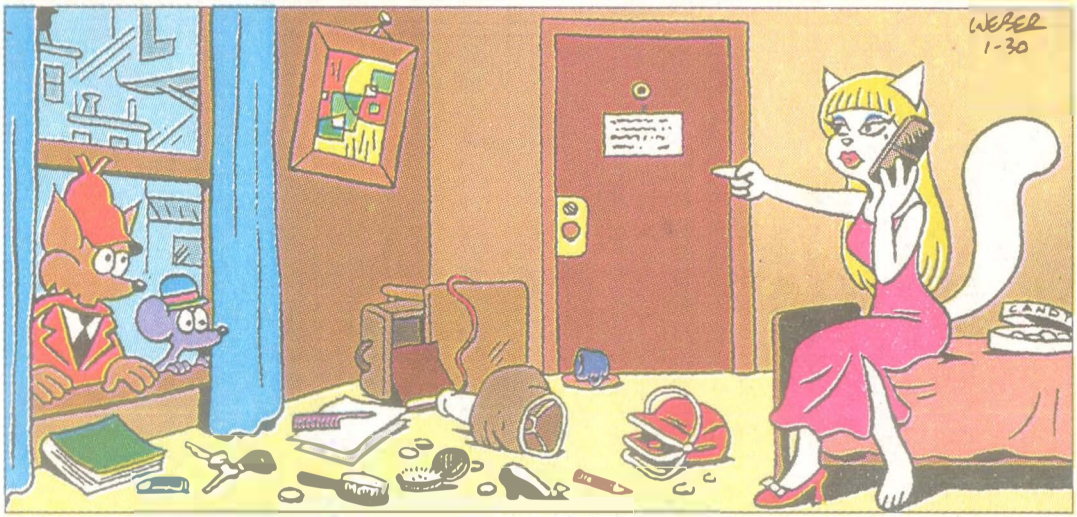
Slylock Fox



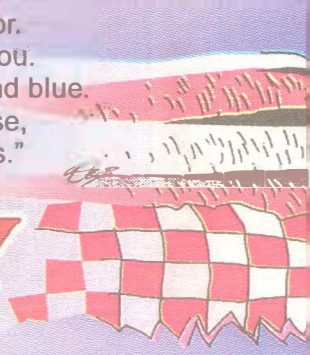
Hotel guest Cassandra Cat claims a burglar snatched a diamond bracelet from her wrist. Cassandra says she put up a struggle, but the thief managed to rush to the door and escape. The cat is calling her insurance company while she waits for the police to arrive. Why does Slylock Fox think the robbery was faked? *(See page 97)*

- Anonymous

I bumped into a stranger as he passed by,
"Oh, excuse me please" was my reply.
He said, "Please excuse me too;
Wasn't even watching for you."
We were very polite, this stranger and I.
We went on our way and we said good-bye.
But at home a different story is told,
How we treat our loved ones, young and old.

Later that day, cooking the evening meal,
My daughter stood beside me very still.
When I turned, I nearly knocked her down.
"Move out of the way," I said with a frown.
She walked away, her little heart was broken.
I didn't realize how harshly I'd spoken.

While I lay awake in bed,
God's still small voice came to me and said,
"While dealing with a stranger, common courtesy you use,
But the children you love, you seem to abuse.
Look on the kitchen floor,
You'll find some flowers there by the door.
Those are the flowers she brought for you.
She picked them herself: pink, yellow and blue.
She stood quietly not to spoil the surprise,
And you never saw the tears in her eyes."



By this time, I felt very small,
And now my tears began to fall.
I quietly went and knelt by her bed;
"Wake up, little girl, wake up," I said.
"Are these the flowers you picked for me?"
She smiled, "I found 'em, out by the tree.
I picked 'em because they're pretty like you.
I knew you'd like 'em, especially the blue."
I said, "Daughter, I'm sorry for the way I acted today;
I shouldn't have yelled at you that way."
She said, "Oh, Mom, that's okay. I love you anyway."
I said, "Daughter, I love you too,
And I do like the flowers, especially the blue."

Society Words

Rural : People who live and work in the countryside.
Urban : People who live and work in towns or cities.
Suburban : People who live on the edges of a large city.
Migrant : People who have moved from one region to another, or one country to another.

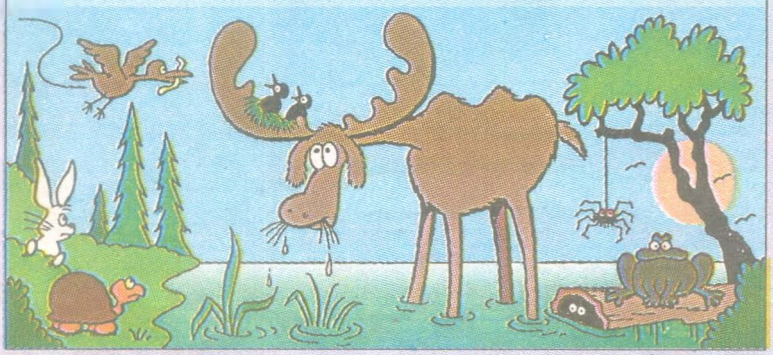
Are you aware that:

If we die tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days. But the family we left behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives. And come to think of it, we pour ourselves more into work than to our family - an unwise investment indeed.

So what is behind the story? You know what is the full word of family? FAMILY=(F)ather (A)nd (M)other, (I) (L)ove (Y)ou! ■

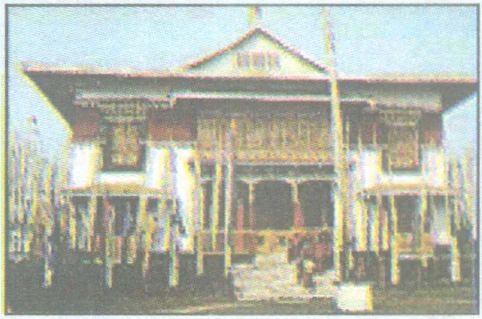
True or False

1) The moose is the largest of the deer family.
2) Moose are no longer found in the United States.
3) Moose have no natural enemies.



(See page 97)

Pemayangtse Monastery SIKKIM



Tucked away in the foothills of the Himalayas, Sikkim is a Himalayan wonderland with its lovely views and exotic orchids, and its forest-trails. The Buddhist monasteries of this State, numbering over 200, have played a vital role in shaping the culture of its people.

The small town of Pemayangtse (literally meaning 'Perfect Sublime Lotus'), situated in West Sikkim at Gyalshing (140 km. from Gangtok) is an important Buddhist religious centre in the State. Its main attraction is the Pemayangtse monastery - Sikkim's second oldest monastery, which was built in 1705. One of the principal monasteries in Sikkim, it is the headquarters of the Nyingamapa sect (a tantrik sect established in the 8th century A.D).

The monastery is a three-storeyed structure filled with wall paintings and sculptures including a seven-tiered painted wooden model of the abode of Guru Rimpoche, complete with rainbows, angels, and the whole panoply of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, on the third floor. Called *Sanghthokpalri* (heaven), this masterpiece of intricate wood-carving was done single-handedly, over a period of five years, by the late monk Dungzin Rimpoche.

The walls and ceiling of the Dukhang (prayer hall) has numerous *thangkas* (silk cloth paintings) and wall paintings, and there is an exceptional collection of religious artwork. The monastery is also a treasure trove of exquisitely carved idols and other religious symbols, most of which are precious because of their antiquity.

Feature

- Dhanya Gopinath

Migratory Birds

Flight is the mode of locomotion used by most of the world's bird species. It is important to birds for feeding, breeding and avoiding predators.

Nowadays, we hear a lot about Avian Flu (Bird Flu) and how it could be spread from country to country through the migration of birds. What exactly is this phenomenon called migration?

Is it not interesting to know that nearly every kind of wild bird living in countries like the United States of America, Canada, Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhastan, Siberia, China and certain South-Asian countries flies southward in autumn and back in spring? While some of these birds go only fifty or hundred miles in each direction, there are others that travel more than twenty or thirty times that distance. This great round-trip journey is called migration.

Migratory birds must surely be having some real reason for travelling thousands of miles back and forth. The answer to that question lies in the two principal needs of birds. Firstly, they need a steady supply of food throughout the year. Secondly, they need the right kind of surroundings and temperature during the breeding season. Birds need plenty of food like insects,

bugs and the like. As food supplies are not adequate during the cold wintry months in their own countries, these birds migrate to warmer places during the cold months. After that, they return to their countries during the months of March or April, when the weather there is better and they are in a position to get all the food they require.

Migratory birds make sure of having everything they need by flying back and forth. On the other hand, tropical birds (those living in warmer climates) rarely migrate either north or south. A country like India is a good example of a tropical country. It gives a home to lakhs and lakhs of migratory birds.

The migration of birds is an amazing phenomenon. Many of these birds migrate between the northern and southern latitudes. They do

Did You Know?

Birds are among the most extensively studied animal groups, with hundreds of academic journals devoted to their study.

Pitohui

Did You Know?

Few birds use chemical defences against predators. Tubenoses can eject an unpleasant slime against an aggressor, and some species of pitohui, found in New Guinea secrete a powerful neurotoxin in their feathers.

this without making any major errors and with remarkable punctuality.

Ornithologists (people who study birds) have been trying to figure out how birds manage to navigate themselves. There are many theories that are put forward. Some birds are known to use the position of the sun, and the birds that fly by night use the star patterns to navigate themselves. These birds may be following the 'leading lines' such as rivers, coastlines and mountain ranges to guide them. Some ornithologists are of the opinion that there may be some gadget in a bird's brain, or some other part of it, that is affected by magnetic or other waves from the earth or in the atmosphere. This may be helping them to steer their course. It may be safer to conclude that navigational skills are both inborn and acquired by experience.

Did You Know?

The Carambolin lake in Goa, is home to over 100 species of migratory birds. Some of these birds fly over from Russia, China and Mongolia. This lake is spread over 70 hectares. As the vegetation of the area is good, it offers these winged creatures plenty of food and abundant fresh water.

The Karanji lake, in Mysore, is another lake that is visited by migratory birds.

We should not even for a single moment, think that migration is an easy thing. Birds have to necessarily prepare for their journey. They do this in two ways. Some birds eat so much that they are almost double their weight before taking off. They store the energy in little balls of fat in their bodies. In other kinds of birds, they shrink so as to accommodate more space for storing fat.

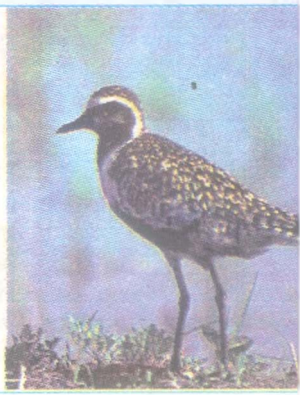
While large birds fly during the day, the smaller ones like the warbler, redstarts and sparrows, fly during the night at 50 kilometres per hour. The larger ducks and the geese fly at around 100 kilometres per hour. They fly about half the day before stopping for rest. They keep maintaining a height between 500 and 1000 metres above sea level.

Birds like geese fly over the Himalayas, just as efficiently as our jet aircraft and that too, without any recourse to oxygen cylinders. They fly in flocks, and create what is called a 'V' pattern. This could be compared to the racing cars that tuck in, one behind the other, thus availing themselves of the vacuum created by the car in front. The leading bird uses up the most energy but changes place regularly during the flight. These journeys could be as long as 80,000 kilometres one way itself.

Let us not think that birds have an easy time while migrating. Migration does have its risks. A lot of birds get killed when the weather is stormy. Cloudy or foggy weather could confuse them. Another great danger is light. They seem to be somehow

Did You Know?

The Golden Plover is a graceful, long-winged little bird that lives in the Arctic and raises its family there but migrates to Argentina and Southern Brazil during winter.



drawn towards bright lights, often hit against these lights and lose their lives in the process. Sometimes, unexpected storms and heavy fogs develop, while birds are migrating during the night. When this happens, some birds get blown into the sea, others are beaten to the ground or banged against the skyscrapers which line the city.

Now, one cannot help wondering what the birds eat after flying hundreds of thousands of miles. Some birds find their meals in the rivers, lakes, oceans, etc., some find them deep in the ocean, while some others find their meal floating on the surface. There are some birds which find food along the shores and beaches, still others find them in the marshes.

Did You Know?

The Arctic Tern is a seabird which makes a very long migratory trip. This bird may travel as much as 22,000 miles in a year. The Arctic Tern summers in the Arctic and winters in the Antarctic.

Ground birds like the sparrows and meadow larks search in the grass and dead leaves for their food. Warblers look out for their food in the taller trees. Birds like fly catchers and swallows find their food in the open air itself. They seem to eat what they want and leave the rest to the others.

Did You Know?

The Wood Cock living in the Himalayas makes a nonstop 2300 kilometre flight between the Himalayas and the Nilgiris every year.

Very soon, it is time for the birds to prepare themselves for their

journey back home. Ornithologists have kept records of the migratory pattern of the birds and have come to the conclusion that birds keep coming year after year to the places they have been to, the previous year. One particular pair of crested flycatchers are believed to have returned for three years in a row. An albino robin is said to have set a record by showing up at the same place for nine years. Two wood thrushes flew back home every spring for five years.

Migratory birds may enjoy a short holiday away from home but for them too, there's no place like home. There are records of Baltimore orioles that flew 2000 miles or more each spring to get back to the very same location each year. They not only came to the same spot, they also chose the same tree. Maybe those trees really meant home to them, in some mysterious way that nobody understands. A great many migratory birds are said to return in this way to the neighbourhoods where they had grown up as youngsters or perhaps nested the year before.

Birds are marvellous flying creatures and there are so many different sorts and sizes of birds spread all over the world. The migration of birds, no doubt, leads to the spread of infectious diseases, a threat that is looming large currently. However, that does not rule out the fact that migration is a mind-boggling achievement, when we consider the size of the bird and the size of its brain in relation to the magnitude and precision of its journey. Indeed migration needs to be termed a ' Miracle Journey.' ■

Did You Know?

The grey-headed Canary Flycatcher, living in the Himalayas, flies down to the plains in winter.

HOME WORK
ONE DAY IN A MATHEMATICS CLASS-
ALL THOSE WHO COMMITTED ERRORS IN THEIR HOMEWORK, STRETCH YOUR HANDS.
WAA... WAA...
THACK!
RAJI, WHY ARE YOU NOT STRETCHING OUT YOUR HAND?
UH! PLEASE DON'T BEAT ME.
©JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
WHY? YOUR ANSWER IS WRONG.
BUT IT WAS MY FATHER WHO DID MY HOMEWORK.

The Steadfast Devotee

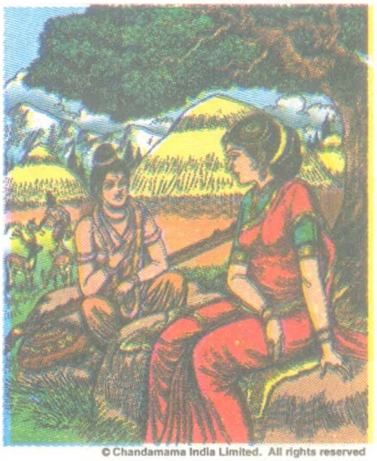
Long, long ago, there lived the mighty Hiranyakashipu, who was king of the demons. He considered Lord Vishnu his greatest enemy, because the latter had killed his brother Hiranyaksha. He had two objectives – to destroy Vishnu and to rule over the three worlds. He ordered his army of demons to persecute all those who worshipped Vishnu.

The demons launched a fierce attack on earth, targeting in particular the ascetics and others who dared worship Vishnu. But their onslaught was unsuccessful, as their targets enjoyed divine protection.

Hiranyakashipu now thought, 'If I'm to conquer the universe, I'll have to acquire supreme power. I shall worship Brahma and request him to give me the powers I seek.'

He went away to a forest, where he began a rigorous penance. Many days passed. Meanwhile, the gods thought this a good opportunity to raid his citadel, which was now lying unprotected.

Led by their king, Indra, the gods ransacked



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Hiranyakashipu's capital. When they reached his palace, they found his queen, Lilavati, who was expecting a baby. Indra thought, "I shall take the lady captive. When the baby is born, I shall kill it. Why let my enemy's child survive to become another menace to us?"

As he was leading Lilavati away to Devaloka (his own domain), Sage Narada, the celestial wanderer, stopped him. "O Indra, what you're doing is unfair. You've no right to harm a defenceless woman and child – even if they happen to be your enemy's family. Moreover, the

child is going to be a devotee of Vishnu. So, leave the queen with me and go back."

Feeling somewhat ashamed, Indra complied. Narada led Lilavati to his ashram, where she lived in safety. He told her all about the glory of Lord Vishnu. The child in her womb, too, absorbed all this knowledge.

Meanwhile, Hiranyakashipu's austerities went on. Finally, Lord Brahma appeared before him and said, "Rise, O Hiranyakashipu! I'm pleased with you, and shall grant any boon of your choice."

"Bless me with immortality, my Lord," pleaded Hiranyakashipu. Brahma said, "I'm sorry, son, but that's beyond my power. Anyone who is born must die!"

"Then," said Hiranyakashipu, "bless me that I may die neither in the sky nor on earth; neither in the day nor at night; neither indoors nor outdoors! Neither man nor beast, nor any kind of created life, may have the power to slay me. Grant me the undisputed lordship over the material world."

"So be it," said Brahma.

Hiranyakashipu happily made his way back home. Learning what had happened, he brought his wife back to his city. Soon, she gave birth to a boy, who was named Prahlad.

Furious with the gods who had attacked his city in his absence, Hiranyakashipu resolved to take revenge on them. With his new powers, he attacked and conquered Devaloka. He soon established himself as the monarch of all the three worlds. His atrocities now began in right earnest, as he ill-treated the gods, destroyed the ashrams of ascetics, and persecuted Vishnu's devotees.

Now, Hiranyakashipu noticed a disturbing development at home – his own son, Prahlad, was growing up as a great devotee of Vishnu! He was forever praying to Vishnu and

singing his praises.

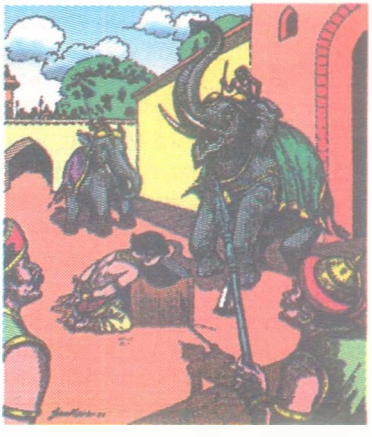
Filled with consternation, Hiranyakashipu summoned Prahlad's teachers and said, "The boy has been brainwashed by Vishnu's followers! Take him away and teach him to sing my glory. After all, I'm the overlord of the universe – not that pretender, Vishnu!"

When Prahlad returned after a long stint with his teachers, his father asked him what he had learnt. Prahlad answered, "Father, I've leant that the most worthwhile occupation for anyone is the worship of Lord Vishnu. One's life becomes meaningful if one is devoted to Vishnu!"

On hearing this, Hiranyakashipu's blood boiled and he shouted, "Who taught you such perverse things, you accursed child?"

Without losing his cool, Prahlad quietly answered, "Lord Vishnu who resides in the hearts of us all is supreme. Who but he can teach anybody anything? He reveals himself to all who are devoted to him."

Hiranyakashipu thought he had had enough. His own son was singing the praises of his most hated enemy! Beside himself with rage, he shouted,



"Enough! This boy is a danger to my race. He must not be allowed to live!"

He ordered the demons to kill Prahlad. Fearsome demons fell upon Prahlad with formidable weapons, but their weapons had no effect on him, as he stood calmly chanting Vishnu's name.

"Let him be trampled by elephants!" ordered the enraged Hiranyakashipu. But that also was of no avail, as the elephants simply refused to hurt Prahlad!

Next, Prahlad was thrown off a cliff. However, he escaped without even a scratch. Hiranyakashipu had him fed with deadly poison, but it turned into nectar in Prahlad's mouth.

At last, Hiranyakashipu shouted in desperation, "What is

it that keeps you alive despite all my efforts to kill you?"

"Don't you understand that even now?" asked Prahlad. "It is the power of Lord Vishnu, who is in the weapons, the elephants, the mountains and even in the poison you fed me. He is everywhere!"

They were in Hiranyakashipu's court at that moment. Prahlad's defiant words infuriated Hiranyakashipu. Pointing to a large pillar beside Prahlad, he demanded, "Do you mean to say that Vishnu is present even in that pillar?"

"Yes," answered Prahlad calmly. "He is in the pillar, just as he is in everything else."

"Then," thundered Hiranyakashipu, "I shall bring him out of the pillar and kill him for what he did to my beloved brother!"

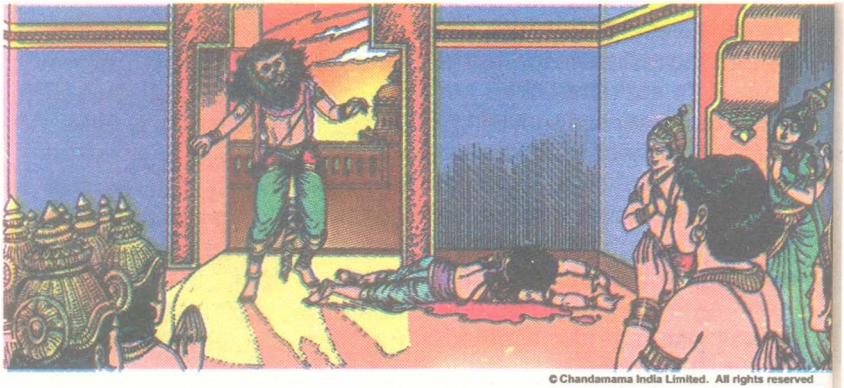
Blind with rage, he picked up his mace and struck the pillar a mighty blow with it. With a thunderous crash, the pillar split open.

A terrible-looking being emerged out of it. He had a lion's head on a man's body; he was Narasimha – the Man-Lion, an incarnation of Vishnu. With a blood-curdling roar, he grabbed Hiranyakashipu and dragged him to the threshold of his palace.

With growing horror, Hiranyakashipu realised that the creature was neither man nor beast; that it was neither day nor night, but the twilight hour; and that he was neither indoors nor outdoors. All the conditions for his doom were being met!

Narasimha killed Hiranyakashipu, ripping open his body with his nails. Thus his reign of terror came to an end.

- Retold by ***Rajee Raman***



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Quiz of the Month

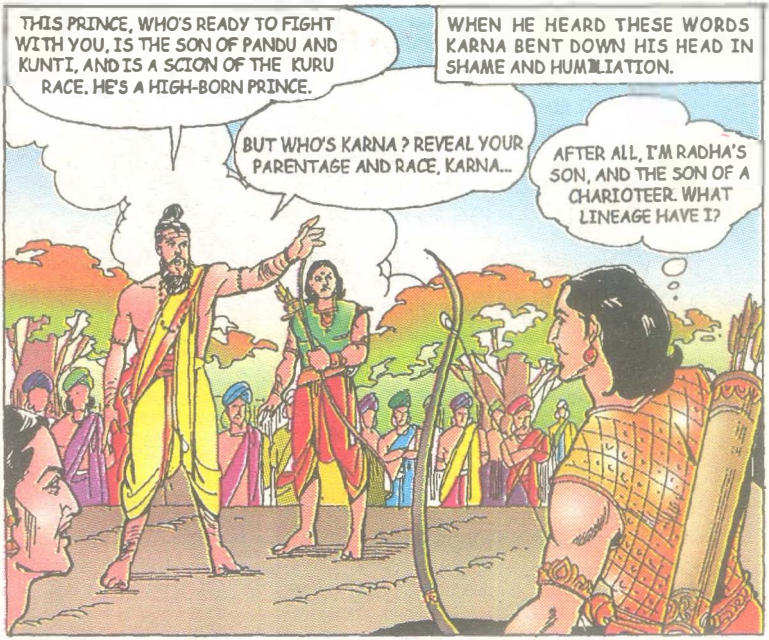
-Prof. N.G.J.

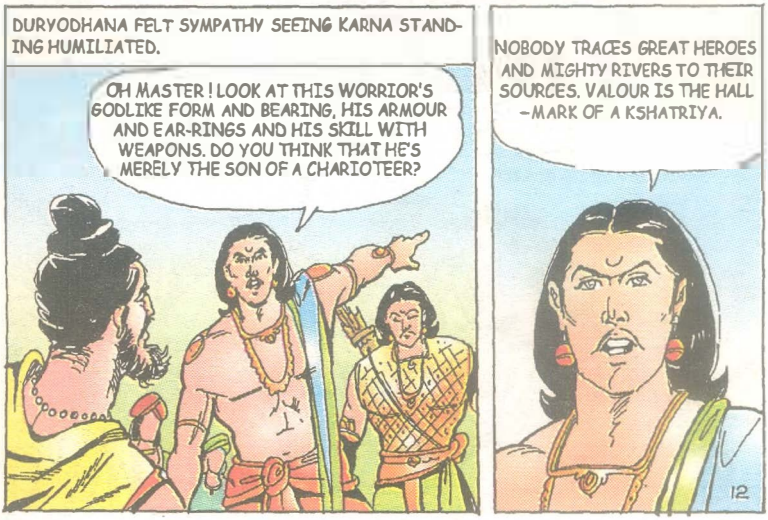
1. January, the first month of the year is named after the Roman god Janus. What is his special physical feature?
2. Name the Roman ruler who made January as the first month of the year.
3. Before the introduction of January as the first month, how many months were there in the Roman Republican Calendar?
4. Before the introduction of the Gregorian Calendar in England in 1752, which date was observed as New Year Day?
5. Name the New Year Day in the Jewish Calendar.
6. Name the first month in the Islamic Calendar.
7. Which state's warring tribes are the Karbis and the Dimasa?
8. Where is the Dubare elephant camp?
9. Which date is celebrated in Australia as 'Australia Day'?
10. Name the National Parliament of Spain.
11. Name the Nobel Laureate in Literature whose birth centenary year is 2006.
12. In which state is Pochampally, which is famous for the Pochampalli Saree?
13. Identify the monument given in the picture.

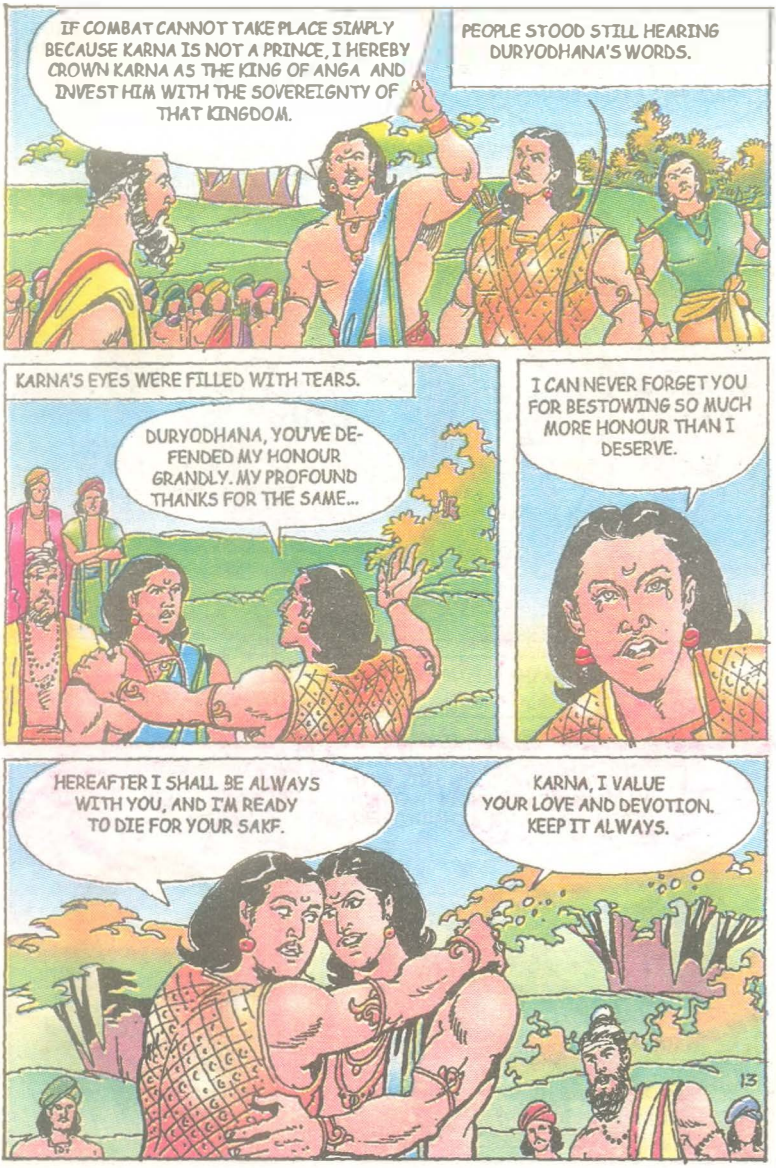
(See page 97)

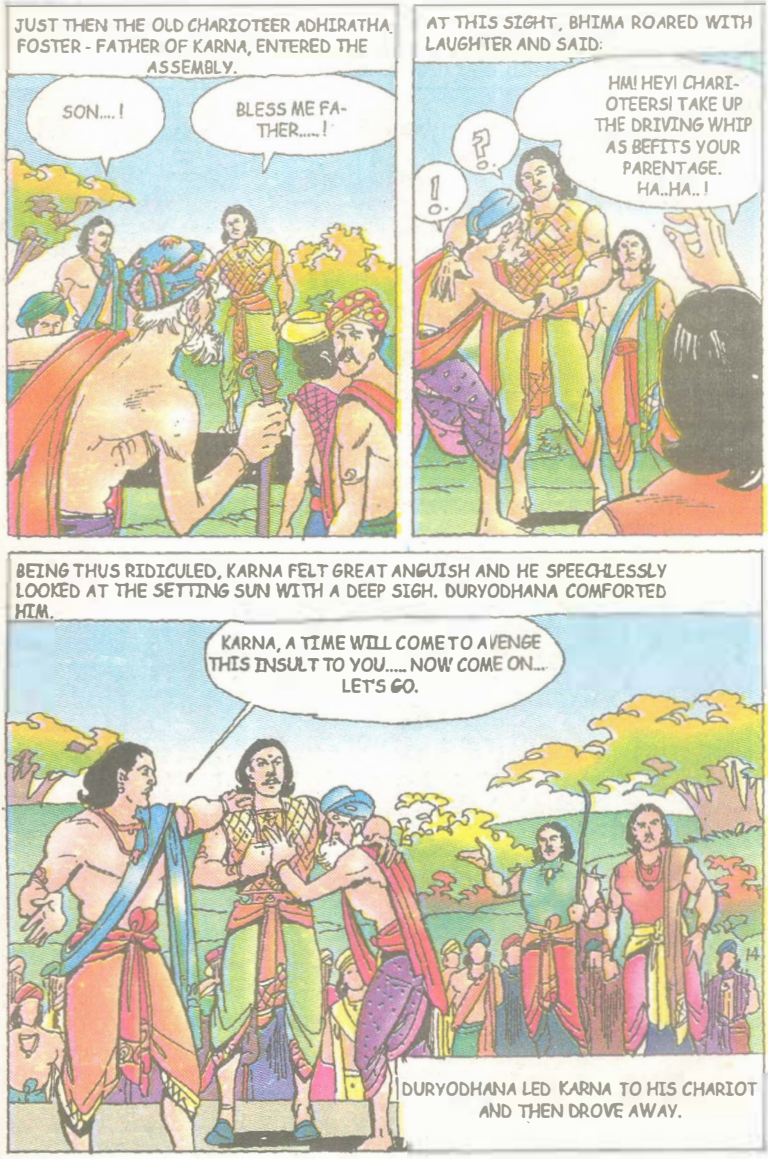
KARNA

ARJUNA...IF YOU DARE, I CHALLENGE YOU FOR A SINGLE COMBAT WITH ME.
HMM!? SO ARROGANT?!
ARJUNA BECAME ANGRY AND GOT READY TO FIGHT.
KARNA! YOU SHALL SOON GO TO HELL, KILLED BY THIS ARJUNA.
OH GODS!
SEEING TWO OF HER SONS GOING TO FIGHT, MOTHER KUNTI FAINTED.
SEEING THE SITUATION GROWING WORSE, KRIPACHARYA, STEPPED BETWEEN THE TWO AND ADDRESSED KARNA:
LISTEN.....! THERE'RE SOME RULES FOR SINGLE COMBAT AND THEY MUST BE FOLLOWED...
?
!
THE COMBATANTS SHOULD REVEAL THEIR LINEAGE, RACE AND PARENTAGE. HIGH-BORN PRINCES CANNOT ENGAGE IN SINGLE COMBAT WITH UNKNOWN ADVENTURERS.
YES, YES!
THAT'S CORRECT.

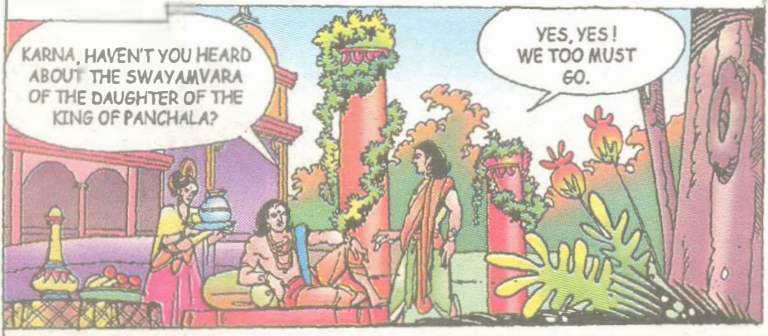

THIS PRINCE, WHO'S READY TO FIGHT WITH YOU, IS THE SON OF PANDU AND KUNTI, AND IS A SCION OF THE KURU RACE. HE'S A HIGH-BORN PRINCE.
WHEN HE HEARD THESE WORDS KARNA BENT DOWN HIS HEAD IN SHAME AND HUMILIATION.
BUT WHO'S KARNA ? REVEAL YOUR PARENTAGE AND RACE, KARNA...
AFTER ALL, I'M RADHA'S SON, AND THE SON OF A CHARIOTEER. WHAT LINEAGE HAVE I?


DURYODHANA FELT SYMPATHY SEEING KARNA STANDING HUMILIATED.
OH MASTER ! LOOK AT THIS WORRIOR'S GODLIKE FORM AND BEARING, HIS ARMOUR AND EAR-RINGS AND HIS SKILL WITH WEAPONS. DO YOU THINK THAT HE'S MERELY THE SON OF A CHARIOTEER?
NOBODY TRACES GREAT HEROES AND MIGHTY RIVERS TO THEIR SOURCES. VALOUR IS THE HALL -MARK OF A KSHATRIYA.
12

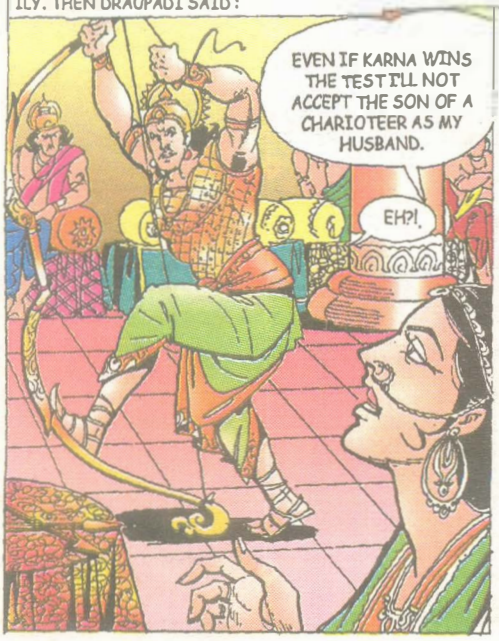

IF COMBAT CANNOT TAKE PLACE SIMPLY BECAUSE KARNA IS NOT A PRINCE, I HEREBY CROWN KARNA AS THE KING OF ANGA AND INVEST HIM WITH THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THAT KINGDOM.
PEOPLE STOOD STILL HEARING DURYODHANA'S WORDS.
KARNA'S EYES WERE FILLED WITH TEARS.
DURYODHANA, YOU'VE DEFENDED MY HONOUR GRANDLY. MY PROFOUND THANKS FOR THE SAME...
I CAN NEVER FORGET YOU FOR BESTOWING SO MUCH MORE HONOUR THAN I DESERVE.
HEREAFTER I SHALL BE ALWAYS WITH YOU, AND I'M READY TO DIE FOR YOUR SAKE.
KARNA, I VALUE YOUR LOVE AND DEVOTION. KEEP IT ALWAYS.
13


JUST THEN THE OLD CHARIOTEER ADHIRATHA, FOSTER - FATHER OF KARNA, ENTERED THE ASSEMBLY.
SON....!
BLESS ME FATHER.....!
AT THIS SIGHT, BHIMA ROARED WITH LAUGHTER AND SAID:
HM! HEY! CHARIOTEERS! TAKE UP THE DRIVING WHIP AS BEFITS YOUR PARENTAGE. HA..HA..!
?
!
BEING THUS RIDICULED, KARNA FELT GREAT ANGUISH AND HE SPEECHLESSLY LOOKED AT THE SETTING SUN WITH A DEEP SIGH. DURYODHANA COMFORTED HIM.
KARNA, A TIME WILL COME TO AVENGE THIS INSULT TO YOU..... NOW COME ON... LET'S GO.
DURYODHANA LED KARNA TO HIS CHARIOT AND THEN DROVE AWAY.

SEVERAL YEARS PASSED. THE PANDAVAS WERE LIVING IN DISGUISE AT EKACHAKRAPURA. ONE DAY, NEWS OF THE SWAYAMVARA OF THE DAUGHTER OF DRUPADA, KING OFPANCHALA SPREAD. THE NEWS REACHED THE KAURAVAS ALSO.

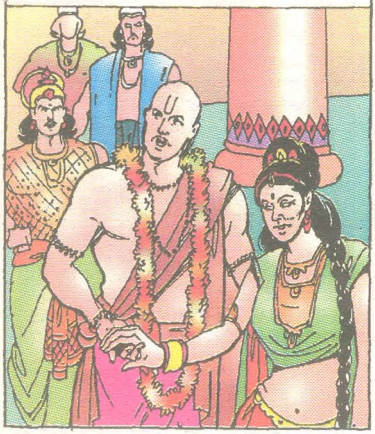


IN THE SWAYAMVARA QUALIFICATION CONTESTS, DURYODHANA, SALYA, SISUPALA, JARASANDHA AND MANY OTHER NOTED, PRINCES FAILED. THEN KARNA CAME FORWARD, TOOK THE BOW IN HIS HAND AND STRUNG IT EASILY. THEN DRAUPADI SAID :

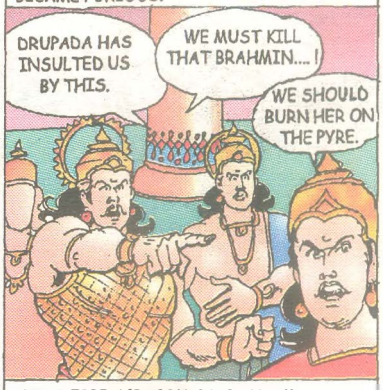


HUMILIATED AND ASHAMED, KARNA WALKED OUT OF THE HALL IN GREAT ANGER.

ARJUNA IN THE GUISE OF A BRAHMIN WON THE CONTEST AND MARRIED PANCHALI

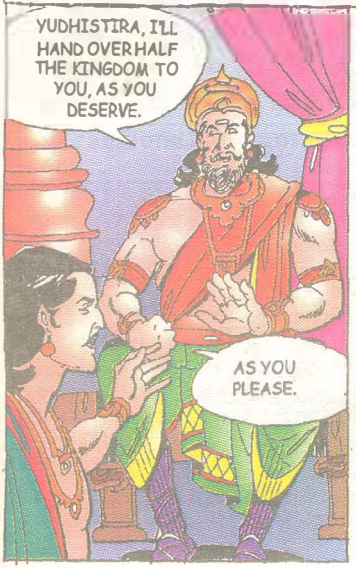


KARNA AND THE DEFEATED PRINCES BECAME FURIOUS.

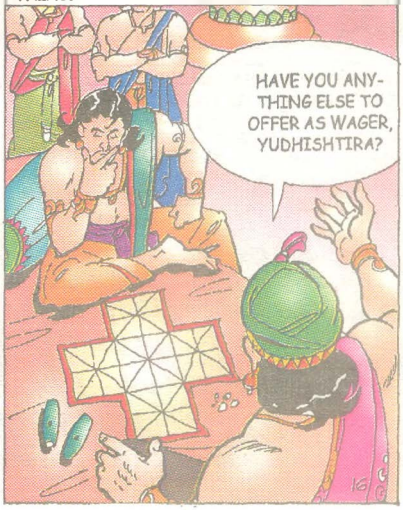


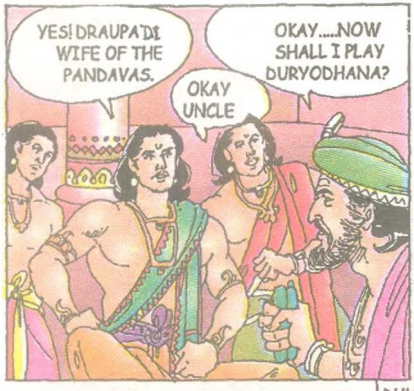
BUT THE PRINCES COULD NOT HARM ARJUNA OR DRAUPATI. AND THEIR MARRIAGE WAS CELEBRATED DULY.

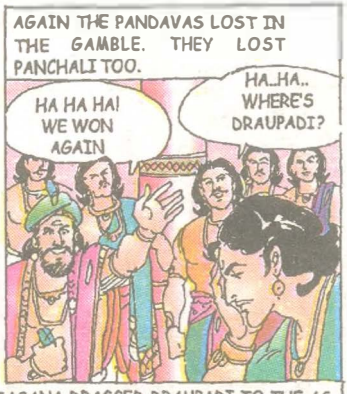
LATER, LEARNING THAT THE PANDAVAS ARE STILL ALIVE, DRITHARASHTRA INVITED THEM TO HIS PALACE.

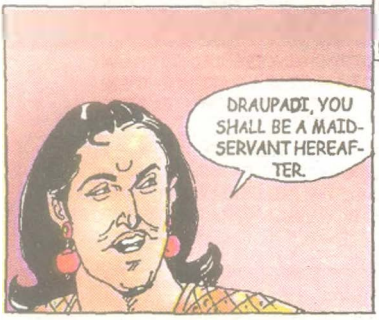


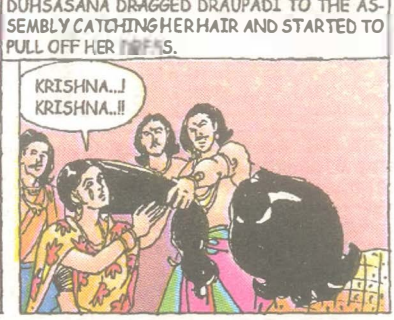
THUS YUDHISTIRA BECAME THE KING OF INDRAPRATHA. THE KAURAVAS BEING ENVIOUS OF THE PROSPERITY OF THE PANDAVAS, INVITED YUDHISHTIRA FOR A GAME OF DICE IN WHICH , THE PANDAVAS LOST EVERYTHING.

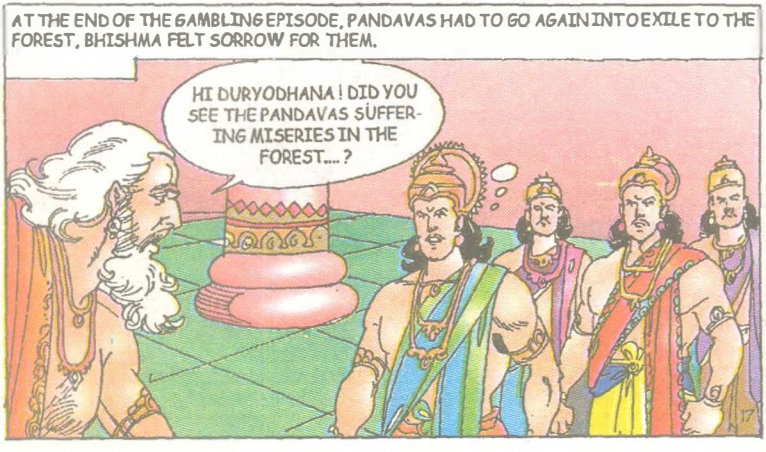


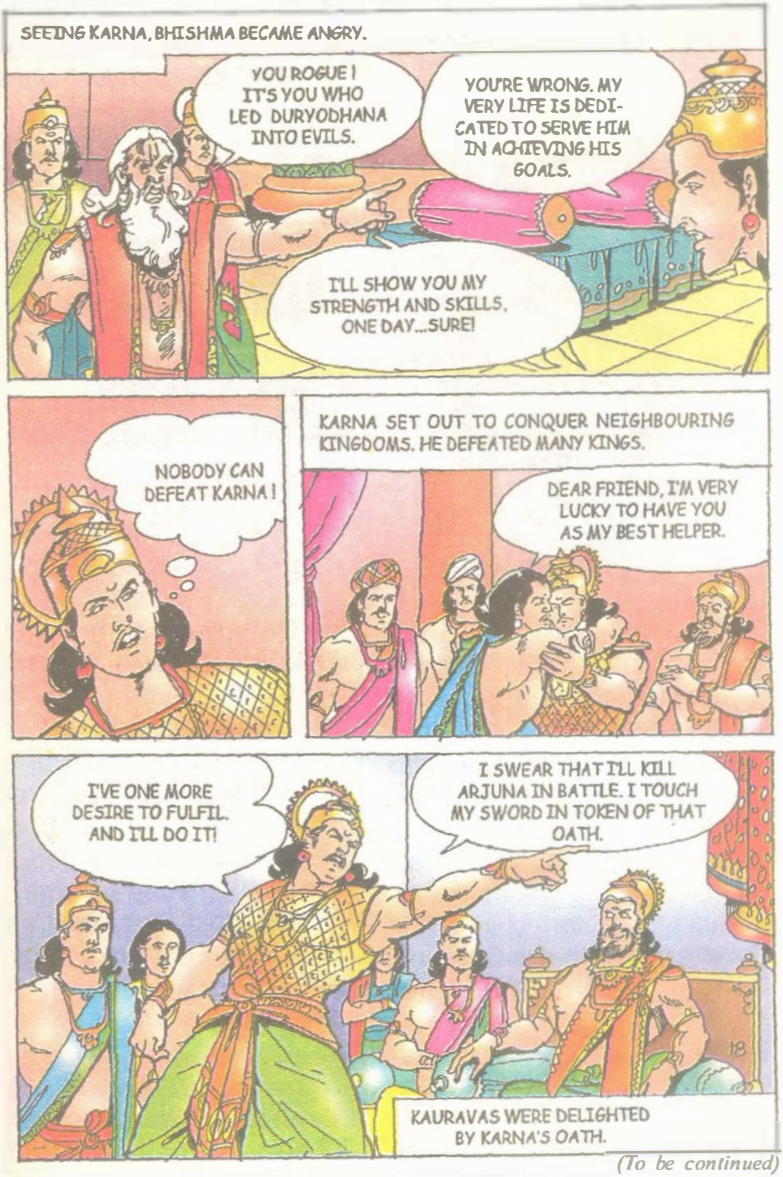

YES! DRAUPADI WIFE OF THE PANDAVAS.
OKAY.....NOW SHALL I PLAY DURYODHANA?
OKAY UNCLE


AGAIN THE PANDAVAS LOST IN THE GAMBLE. THEY LOST PANCHALI TOO.
HA HA HA! WE WON AGAIN
HA..HA.. WHERE'S DRAUPADI?


DRAUPADI, YOU SHALL BE A MAID-SERVANT HEREAFTER.


DUHSASANA DRAGGED DRAUPADI TO THE ASSEMBLY CATCHING HER HAIR AND STARTED TO PULL OFF HER [illegible]S.
KRISHNA...! KRISHNA..!!

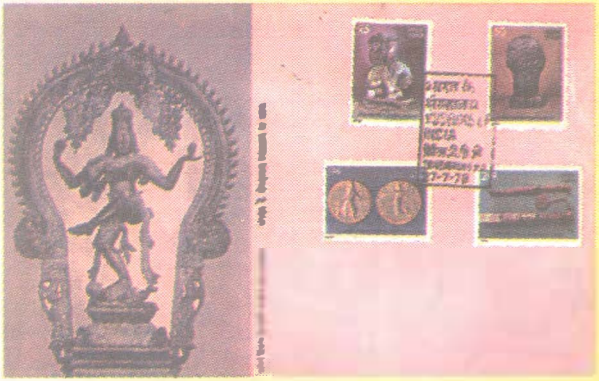

AT THE END OF THE GAMBLING EPISODE, PANDAVAS HAD TO GO AGAIN INTO EXILE TO THE FOREST, BHISHMA FELT SORROW FOR THEM.
HI DURYODHANA! DID YOU SEE THE PANDAVAS SUFFERING MISERIES IN THE FOREST....?


SEEING KARNA, BHISHMA BECAME ANGRY.
YOU ROGUE ! IT'S YOU WHO LED DURYODHANA INTO EVILS.
YOU'RE WRONG. MY VERY LIFE IS DEDICATED TO SERVE HIM IN ACHIEVING HIS GOALS.
I'LL SHOW YOU MY STRENGTH AND SKILLS, ONE DAY...SURE!
NOBODY CAN DEFEAT KARNA !
KARNA SET OUT TO CONQUER NEIGHBOURING KINGDOMS. HE DEFEATED MANY KINGS.
DEAR FRIEND, I'M VERY LUCKY TO HAVE YOU AS MY BEST HELPER.
I'VE ONE MORE DESIRE TO FULFIL. AND I'LL DO IT!
I SWEAR THAT I'LL KILL ARJUNA IN BATTLE. I TOUCH MY SWORD IN TOKEN OF THAT OATH.
KAURAVAS WERE DELIGHTED BY KARNA'S OATH.

(To be continued)

- Prof. George John Nidhiry

Museums of India

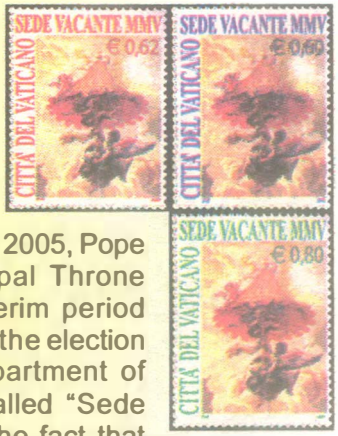


Museums are an integral part of the cultural, literary and artistic heritage of a nation. They provide materials for the study of the history of a people and play an important role in the promotion of National Integration. The first museum in India was started in 1814 by the Asiatic Society of Bengal in Calcutta. The Ancient Monuments Preservation Act was introduced in 1904 and a good number of Archaeological Museums and Art Galleries came into existence. Today there are about 400 museums in India. The Department of Posts started the issue of a series of stamps on "Museums of India" in 1978. The first set of stamps depict "Airavathi", "Kalpadruma", "Kushan Gold Coin" and an old "Dagger and Knife" selected from different museums in India.

Sede Vacante Stamps issued by the Vatican

The Vatican started

issuing its own stamps in August 1929, during the Pontificate of Pope Pius XI. The first set of stamps were ordinary mail stamps. The design was the Papal Tiara with crossed keys. Some stamps depicted the portrait of Pope Pius XI. On April 2, 2005, Pope John Paul II died, and the Papal Throne became vacant. During the interim period between the death of a Pope and the election of a new Pope, the Postal Department of Vatican uses special stamps called "Sede Vacante" stamps announcing the fact that the Papal Throne is vacant. On April 12, 2005, the Vatican issued a set of three 'Sede Vacante' stamps. The design consisted of two keys surmounted by a canopy.

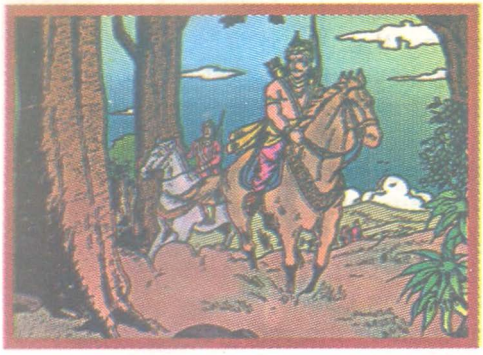


The Otter - GDR

The Otter is a semi-aquatic carnivorous mammal of the Mustelidae family. The other members are weasels, skunks, badgers and mink. They have long thin bodies, short legs and long tails. Sea otters produce the most expensive fur. A full pelt of a sea otter costs up to 2500 dollars for a single piece. Due to habitat destruction and hunting for fur, the species is under the threat of extinction. In 1987 the former East Germany (GDR) issued four stamps on otters.

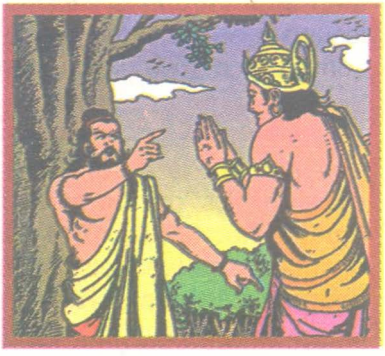
STORY OF INDIA

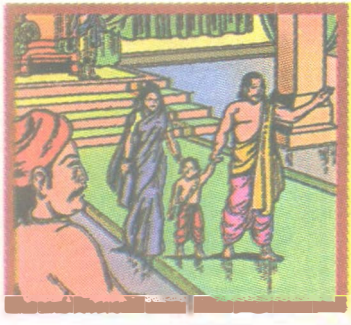
TRIUMPHANT IN THE TRIAL - I



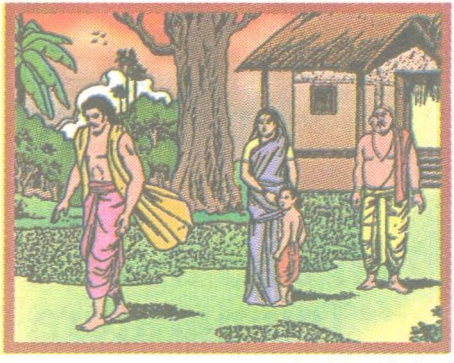
Long, long ago, there lived a great king named Harischandra, who belonged to the Solar Dynasty. He was renowned as a just and truthful king. Out hunting one day, the king entered a forest.

At that time, the sage Viswamitra was engrossed in penance in a remote part of the forest. He was on the point of achieving *siddhi* when the king unwittingly disturbed him. The sage was furious. The king begged his pardon, and promised to grant him whatever he asked by way of compensation.



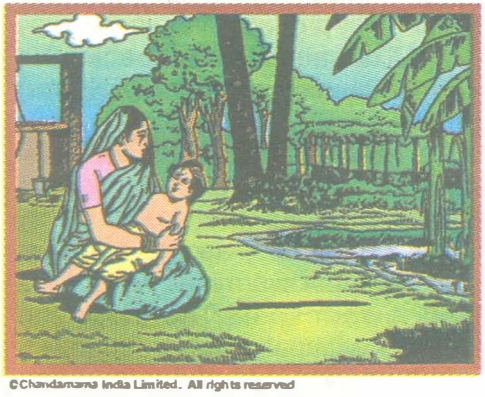


Determined to avenge the loss of his *siddhi*, the sage demanded that the king surrender his kingdom, along with all his wealth, to him. The worthy king proved true to his promise. He made over his kingdom to the sage and left the palace as a pauper along with his queen, Shaibya, and little son, Rohit.



Harischandra left for Kasi with his family. But Viswamitra followed him there and demanded his *dakshina* or monetary donation. Harischandra had no money. His wife and son took up employment as servants in a rich man's household.

But the money given by their employer was not sufficient for the *dakshina*. So, Harischandra himself began working as an assistant to the keeper of a cremation ground. His job was to realise fees from those who came to cremate their dead.



One day, Prince Rohit was bitten by a snake while working in the rich man's orchard. He screamed in pain. His mother came running to him. With his head on his mother's lap, the child breathed his last.

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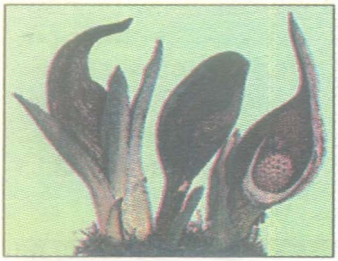
-P. G.



Zen and the Art of Temperature Maintenance

Scientists at the Iwat University in Japan have shown that the skunk cabbage –a species of arum lily whose Japanese name Zazen sou means Zen meditation plant – can maintain its own internal temperature at about 20 degrees C even on a freezing day. The plant occurs in East Asia and northeastern North America, where its English name comes from its bad smell and from the fact that its leaves are like those of the cabbage. Unlike the case of mammals which maintain their body temperature by constant metabolism in cells all over the body, heat in the skunk cabbage is produced chiefly in the spadix, the plant's spike-like flowering stalk through chemical reactions in the cells.

According to one of the authors of the new study, Takanori Ito, only one other plant species, the Asian sacred lotus, is homothermic, that is, able to maintain its own body temperature at a certain level. Most other plants do not produce heat in this way because they lack the thermogenic genes.

Climate Changes

Some important climate changes are predicted by scientists, as the result of global warming. As Europe warms, the north of the continent is tipped for getting a warmer Mediterranean type

of climate but the Mediterranean countries themselves will be sweltering through increased warmth and droughts. Traditional tourism hot spots like Spain and Greece could find summers too hot, which may drive away tourists to the cooler north. Extreme heat waves may cause forest fires, loss of crops and a rise in summer deaths in Europe. One side-effect is the increased use of air conditioning which will make it difficult for many countries to meet the world guideline on decreasing the greenhouse emissions.

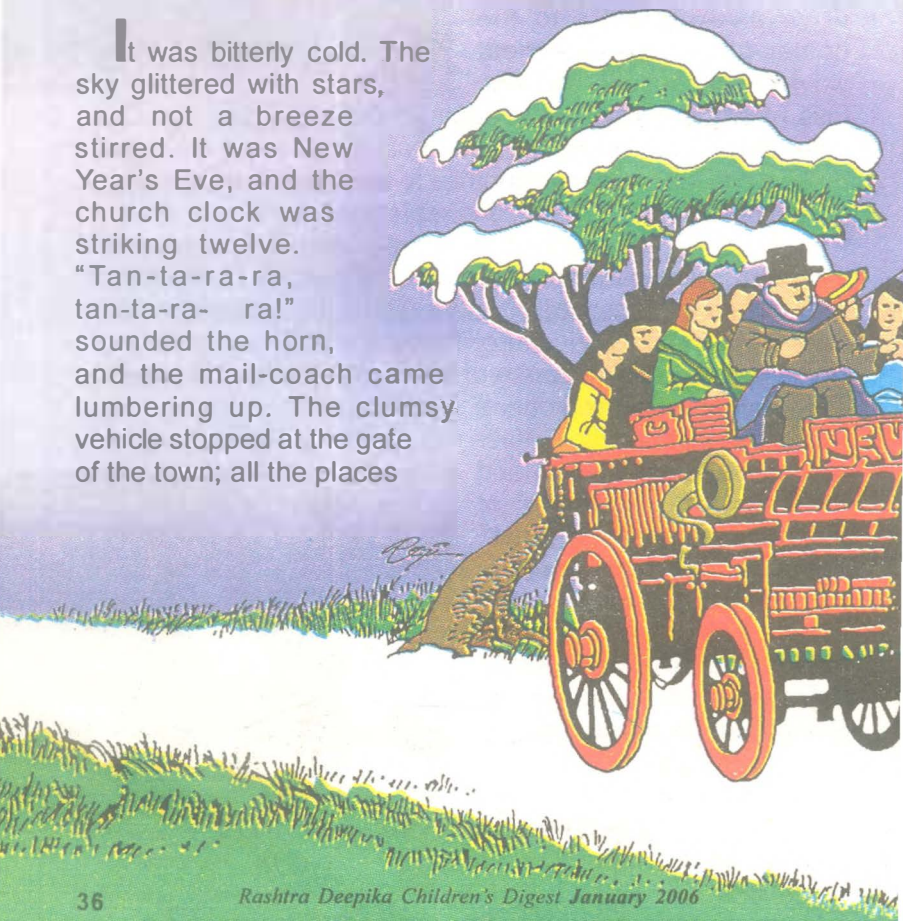
In North America industries that rely on melted water from winter snows could be hit as most of the water precipitation may fall as rain instead of snow. The rains may occur off-season, affecting agriculture. Further north, the melting of Arctic ice is already a cause of concern. With further melting of the snowbound regions of Alaska and Canada animals such as polar bears could face risk. In South America tropical storms may be triggered, and in Asia the severity of monsoon rains may increase. There could be more floods in low-lying countries like Bangladesh, while rain will be less in some East Asian countries like Indonesia. Siberia will be affected by the melting of permafrost, the layer of soil remaining permanently frozen, making buildings and other structures unstable.

Girls travel with their animals looking for shelter in the outskirts of Dhaka.

- Hans Christian Andersen (Adapted)

The Mail-Coach Passengers

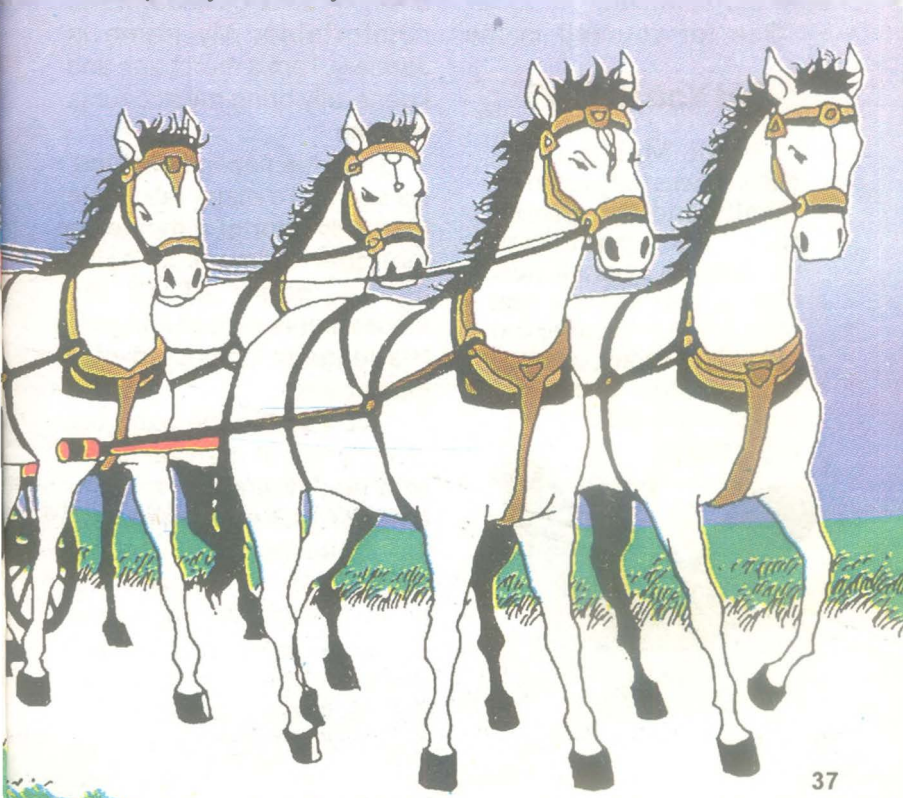
It was bitterly cold. The sky glittered with stars, and not a breeze stirred. It was New Year's Eve, and the church clock was striking twelve. "Tan-ta-ra-ra, tan-ta-ra- ra!" sounded the horn, and the mail-coach came lumbering up. The clumsy vehicle stopped at the gate of the town; all the places



had been taken, for there were twelve passengers in the coach.

"Hurrah! Hurrah!" cried the people in the town; for in every house the New Year was being welcomed; and, as the clock struck, they stood up, the full glasses in their hands, to drink success to the newcomers. "A Happy New Year," was the cry; "a pretty wife, plenty of money, and no sorrow or care!"

The wish passed round, and the glasses clashed together till they rang again; while before the town-gate the mail-coach stopped with the twelve strange passengers. And who were these strangers? Each of them had his passport and his luggage with him; they even brought presents for me, and



for you, and for all the people in the town. Who were they? What did they want? And what did they bring with them?

"Good-morning!" they cried to the sentry at the town-gate.

"Good-morning," replied the sentry, for the clock had struck twelve.

"Your name and profession?" asked the sentry of the one who alighted first from the carriage.

"See for yourself in the passport," he replied.

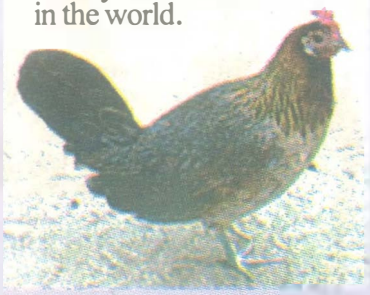
"I am myself!" — and a famous fellow he looked, arrayed in bearskin and fur boots. "Come to me to-morrow, and I will give you a New Year's present. I throw shillings and pence among the people. I give balls every night, no less than thirty-one; indeed, that is the highest number I can spare for balls. My ships are often frozen in, but in my offices it is warm and comfortable. My name is January. I am a merchant, and I generally bring my accounts with me."

Then the second alighted. He seemed a merry fellow. He was a director of a theater, a manager of masked balls, and a leader of all the amusements we can imagine. His luggage consisted of a great cask.

"We'll dance the bung out of the cask at carnival-time," said he. "I'll prepare a merry tune for you and for myself, too. Unfortunately I have not long to live, — the shortest time, in fact, of my whole family, — only twenty-eight days. Sometimes they pop me in a day extra; but I

Did You Know?

In the Middle Ages, chicken was only eaten by royalty and the aristocracy. The poor kept chickens for eggs and new chicks, and killed a hen only when it became too old to lay. Today, chicken is probably the most widely eaten meat in the world.



Did You Know?

In America, the weeks leading up to Christmas are the biggest shopping weeks of the year. Many retailers make up to 70% of their annual revenue in the month preceding Christmas.

trouble myself very little about that. Hurrah!"

"You must not shout so," said the sentry.

"Certainly I may shout," retorted the man. "I'm Prince Carnival, traveling under the name of February."

The third now got out. He looked the personification of fasting; but he carried his nose very high, for he was a weather prophet. In his buttonhole he wore a little bunch of violets, but they were very small.

"March, March!" the fourth passenger called after him, slapping him on the shoulder, "don't you smell something good? Make haste into the guard-room, they are feasting in there. I can smell it already! Forward, Master March!'

But it was not true. The speaker only wanted to make an April Fool of him, for with that fun the fourth stranger generally began his career. He looked very jovial, and did little work.

"If the world were only more settled!" said he; "but sometimes I'm obliged to be in a good humor, and sometimes a bad one. I can laugh or cry according to circumstances. I have my summer wardrobe

Did You Know?

In Finland and Sweden an old tradition prevails, where the twelve days of Christmas are declared to be time of civil peace by law. It used to be that a person committing crimes during this time would be liable to a stiffer sentence than normal.

Did You Know?

In the Thomas Nast cartoon that first depicted Santa Claus with a sleigh and reindeer, he was delivering Christmas gifts to soldiers fighting in the U.S. Civil War. The cartoon, entitled "Santa Claus in Camp," appeared in Harper's Weekly on January 3, 1863.

in this box here, but it would be very foolish to put it on now!"

After him a lady stepped out of the coach. She called herself Miss May. She wore a summer dress and overshoes. Her dress was light green, and there were anemones in her hair. She was so scented with wild thyme that it made the sentry sneeze.

"Your health, and God bless you!" was her greeting.

How pretty she was! And such a singer! Not a theater singer nor a ballad-singer; no, but a singer of the woods. For she wandered through the gay, green forest, and had a concert there for her

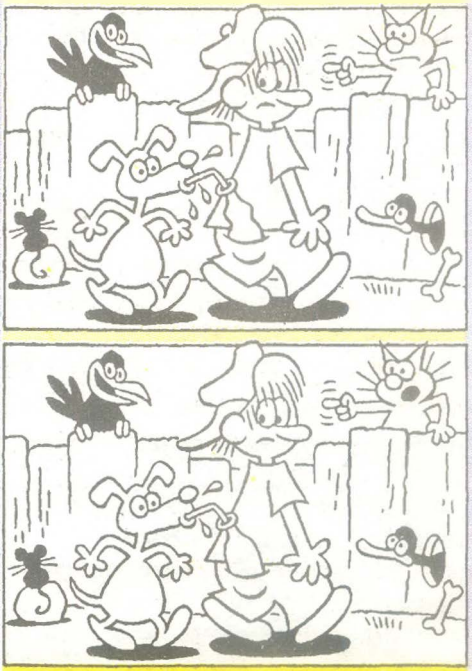
own amusement.

"Now comes the young lady," said those in the coach; and out stepped a young dame, delicate, proud, and pretty. It was Mistress June. In her service people become lazy and fond of sleeping for hours. She gives a feast on the longest day of the year, that there may be time for her guests to partake of the numerous dishes at her table. Indeed, she keeps her own carriage, but still she travels by the mail-coach with the rest because she wishes to show that she is not proud.

But she was not without a protector; her younger brother, July, was with her. He was a plump, young fellow, clad in summer garments, and wearing a straw hat. He had very little luggage because it was so cumbersome in the great heat. He had, however, swimming-trousers with him, which are nothing to carry.

Then came the mother herself, Madame August, a wholesale dealer in fruit, proprietress of a large number of fish-ponds, and a land-cultivator. She was fat and warm, yet she could use her hands well, and would

Try It... Find six differences between these two panels.



(See page 97)

herself carry out food to the laborers in the field. After work, came the recreations, dancing and playing in the greenwood, and the "harvest home." She was a thorough housewife.

After her a man stepped out of the coach. He is a painter, a master of colors, and is named September. The forest on his arrival has to change its colors, and how beautiful are those he chooses! The woods glow with red, and gold, and brown. This great master painter can whistle like a blackbird. There he stood with his color-pot in his hand, and that was the whole of his luggage.

A landowner followed, who in the month for sowing seed attends to his ploughing and is fond of field sports. Squire October brought his dog and his gun with him, and had nuts in his game-bag.

"Crack! Crack!" He had a great deal of luggage, even a plough. He spoke of farming, but what he said could scarcely be heard for the coughing and sneezing of his neighbor.

It was November, who coughed violently as he got out. He had a cold, but he said he thought it would leave him when he went out woodcutting, for he had to supply wood to the whole parish. He spent his evenings making skates, for he knew, he said, that in a few weeks

Did You Know?

Hens lay their eggs in a small cage called a coop.

Did You Know?

The tallest flying birds are cranes: some species, e.g. the Japanese crane, stands nearly 2m high.

they would be needed.

At length the last passenger made her appearance, — Old Mother December! The dame was very aged, but her eyes glistened like two stars. She carried on her arm a flower-pot, in which a little fir tree was growing. "This tree I shall guard and cherish," she said, "that it may grow large by Christmas Eve, and reach from the floor to the ceiling, to be adorned with lighted candles, golden apples, and toys. I shall sit by the fireplace, and bring a story-book out of my pocket, and read aloud to all the little children. Then the toys on the tree will become alive, and the little waxen Angel at the top will spread out his wings of gold leaf, and fly down from his green perch. He will kiss every child in the room, yes, and all the little children who stand out in the street singing a carol about the 'Star of Bethlehem.' "

"Well, now the coach may drive away," said the sentry; "we will keep all the twelve months here with us."

"First let the twelve come to me," said the Captain on duty, "one after another. The passports I will keep here, each of them for one month. When that has passed, I shall write the behavior of each stranger on his passport. Mr. January, have the goodness to come here."

And Mr. January stepped forward.

When a year has passed, I think I shall be able to tell you what the twelve passengers have brought to you, to me, and to all of us. Just now I do not know, and probably even they do not know themselves, for we live in strange times. ■

Did You Know?

During the 6th century, it was customary to congratulate people who sneezed because it was thought that they were expelling evil from their bodies. During the great plague of Europe, the Pope passed a law to say "God bless you" to one who sneezed.

Story

Why Wasn't It True?

It was a pleasant Sunday with dazzling sunshine and a gentle breeze. I was returning from coaching class. After an exhausting time in the stuffy classroom, I was enjoying myself in the fresh air. But this perfect Sunday turned out to be an unusual one. The streets were lonely for

some unknown reason. The shops were all closed and I wondered why, because I had seen them open and busy with customers only a few hours before. Not even a street dog was on the roads. It seemed that someone had charmed the town into a dead silence. No child was playing, no bird was singing, no one was walking in the street except me! What on earth had happened? Little did I know that the answer was perched right behind me...

It was a gigantic creature with a lion's body and an eagle's head and wings. It had an enormous beak and fierce scarlet eyes. I was petrified with fear and astonishment. I was gazing at it with my mouth half-opened, when suddenly it spoke and gave me a start:

"Hey! Why are you gaping at me so awkwardly?" it asked.

"Er,... Sorry," I mumbled.

"But you should say hello, when you meet someone."

"Oh! Hello, hang on, are you a griffin?" I asked.

"Yes, I am a griffin, one of the famous...

"Mythical creatures," I

Our Cook

We have a cook,
Who loves reading his book,
He loves the day Sunday,
And he is happy with
the money we pay.
His name is Jack
He loves his evening snack
He loves wearing jeans
But will never make
dishes out of beans.
He loves to bake
But not the cake
He loves chilly
But acts very silly.
This is about our cook Jack,
Who loves his evening snack.

- Divyashree & Rakshith,
Std VI A, Cluny Convent School,
Malleswaram, Bangalore.

completed.

"How did you know that?" it asked, looking very surprised.

"Well, there are many stories about you. You're really famous."

"It's very good to know that I am in books," he said happily. "By the way, what's your name?"

"Sraman Chatterjee," I replied, feeling a bit relaxed.

"Nice name, but difficult to pronounce. Don't you have a nickname?"

" Of course, I have. It's Neil."

"I heard this name somewhere. Isn't it the name of a famous astronaut?"

"Yeah, Neil Armstrong. He was the first man to land on the moon."

"That's what he is famous for?" he said carelessly. "Well, I've gone there loads of times. Boring place, you know."

"What?" I asked, feeling astonished. "You mean you have gone to the moon?"

"Do you think I'm lying?" the griffin asked, looking offended.

"No, no, of course not. But none of the stories about you says you have gone to the moon."

"Actually, the people who write about us, have very little knowledge about us."

"They also say that you're very ferocious," I reminded him.

"That's only when I get angry. Anyway what do you feel about me?"

"It's true that you look fierce, but you are friendly," I said.

In life

Yesterday is a history
Tomorrow is a mystery
Today is a gift
That's why it is called Present
So accept it with gratitude.

- Anupama Bughani, Std VI C, Dehradun, Uttaranchal.

"Good boy! By the way, where's your home?" he asked.

"Somewhere there," I showed him my home.

"Nice place, but too little for me to get into. Anyway, goodbye."

"What? Are you going? Please don't go away," I pleaded.

"Aha! You seem to like me, but Neil, myths are myths, they shouldn't be too real. You're lucky enough to have talked to me."

"You have many magical powers. Can't you be smaller and live with me?"

"Why do you worry? Perhaps, I will go away physically, but I will live in your memory and in all your story books as one of your dearest friends, forever, I promise."

"Goodbye then," I said, feeling a bit upset.

"Goodbye."

He fluttered away and the town instantly returned to its business. Perhaps it was just a dream, but why, why wasn't it true?

-Sraman Chatterjee, Std VIII B, Asansol Ramakrishna Mission High School, Kanyapur Link Road, Asansol - 713304.

It's examination
And one must study
with concentration.
Maths with all calculations,
English with punctuations,
Physics with variation,
Bio with classification,
Chemistry with equation,
Geography with population,
All subjects have their own explanation,
So there is no time for relaxation.

*- **Chetana Shenoy**, Std IX C, Venkat International Public School, Rajajinagar, Vth Block, Bangalore - 10.*

Pen Pals

1. Ajith Jacob Roy(10), C/o K. J. Roy, P. O. Box 17065, Dubai, UAE. H&I: Watching TV., Playing basket ball and reading.
2. Usman Ahmad Ansari(15), S/o Dr. I. A. Ansari, AB/72 Medical Colony, A. M. U., Aligarh, U.P. H&I: Listening to music, reading and friendship.
3. P. Arun Prasanth(14), X A, St. Joseph's Boy's Hr. Sec. School, Appleby Road, Coonoor - 643102, Tamil Nadu. H&I: Playing basketball and watching TV.
4. Tulakant Arya(14), Std IX, Sainik School Chittorgarh, Kush House, Rajasthan - 312001. H&I: Listening to music and watching TV.
5. P. Mallikarjun Reddy(17), +1 Science, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Udaigiri 'A' House, Chikkajogi Halli, Kudligi, Bellary - 683126. H&I: Playing cricket, painting and drawing.
6. G. Lalith Kishore, 4477, Chola Trs, VIII A, Sainik School, Amaravathi Nagar - 642102, Udumalpet, Coimbatore. H&I: Reading, playing basketball and friendship.
7. Santesh Kumar, S.No. 4100, Std VIII, Sainik School, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan. H&I: Reading and playing chess.
8. Anup Bharadwaj(14), Block - 18, No. 20, BEML Layout, Srirampura IInd Stage, Mysore - 570023. H&I: Watching TV, playing cricket and writing letters.
9. Kumari Kanak(12), Std VIII B, Sri Sathya Sai Vidhya Peeth, Sri Sailam, Kataloor P.O., Calicut - 673531, Kerala. H&I: Reading, dancing and singing.
10. P. Selvaganapathy(13), Std VIII, Chola, Sainik School, Amaravathi Nagar, Coimbatore - 642102. H&I: Playing football and reading.
11. Sravan V. Kumar(16), 'Sreesden', Chevarambalam P.O., Calicut - 673017, Kerala. H&I: Singing, playing football and chatting.
12. Amit Kumar(17), House No. B-861, Sector II, H.E.C. Colony, Dhurwa, Ranchi - 834004. H&I: Reading, playing chess and friendship.

Welcome to
Pen Pals
CLUB

Send us particulars regarding your name and address, age, the standard you study, your hobbies and interests, to the following address

Co-ordinator,
Pen Pals Club,
Children's Digest,
P. B. No. 7,
Kottayam-686001,
Kerala, India.

13. Abhijith K. Menon(9), Std IV, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Thrissur. H&I: Cycling, drawing, keeping birds and watching TV.
14. Abdul Shiyas A(14), S/o M. Abdul Saleem, Sabariyath Manzil, Athicode P.O., Palakkad - 678554. H&I: Collecting stamps and coins.
15. Manshoor P. H.(15), Std XI, Udayagiri House, JNV Malampuzha, Palakkad - 678651, Kerala. H&I: Chatting, travelling and watching TV.
16. Avino(15) & Rose Mary(14), C/o Holy Cross School, Dimapur, Nagaland - 797112. H&I: Singing, dancing and listening to music.
17. B. K. Kapilan Ganapathy(13), Std IX A, S/o N. Karunanidhi, No. 9, Kathirvel Colony, Tirupur - 641604. H&I: Collecting stamps, reading and playing chess.
18. Vidya V.(15), 001, Musuri Apts, No. 8, Service Road, Domlur Layout, Bangalore - 560071. H&I: Collecting stamps, dancing and singing.
19. Aditi Gupta(13), Std VII, D. C. Model School, Sector - 9, Faridabad, Haryana. H&I: Reading and chatting.
20. V. N. Sudharman(13), R. No. 4530, Sainik School, Amaravathi Nagar, Udumalpet, Coimbatore - 642102. H&I: Playing computer games, dancing and photography.
21. Palki Kaushik(12) & Amalendu Kaushik(10), C/o Akhil Sharma, Bormupia Tiniali, K. B. Road, Lakhimpur - 787001. H&I: Drawing, singing and watching TV.
22. S. Abarajitha, R. No. 4542, Sainik School, Amaravati Nagar, Udumalpet, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. H&I: Reading, swimming and photography.
23. Divya V(9), C/o K. K. Vilwadrinathan, Karimbanassery, III/998C, Chembummuku, Thrikkakara, Kochi - 21, Kerala. H&I: Reading and painting.
24. G. Madan Gowri, Std VIII B, Pallava House, Sainik School, Amaravathinagar, Udumalpet, Tamil Nadu - 642102. H&I: Painting and playing table tennis.
24. Sajan Menon P.(16), Udayagiri House, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Malampuzha, Palakkad - 678651, Kerala. H&I: Playing cricket, reading and singing.
25. Arvind Jose T.(14), Vruthantham, Amalagiri P. O., Kottayam - 686036, Kerala. H&I: Cycling, listening to music and playing basketball.
26. Abhimanue Raghavan(10), C/o Zonal Office, Kerala Transport Company, 3rd Floor, GCDA Commercial Complex, Post Box No. 2567, Cochin - 31, Kerala. H&I: Reading and running.

YOUNG ARTISTS

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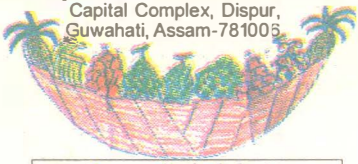


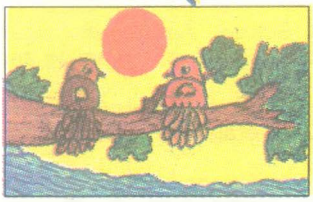
Sri Rajiv Medhi, IV B, Anand Academi, Capital Complex, Dispur, Guwahati, Assam-781005.

Kevin Thomas Miranda, IV B, Holy Angel's ISC School, Nanthancode, Trivandrum.

Mahesh Kumar M., VI A, KV Pattom, Trivandrum.

Vivek Antony, VIII, Lisieux MHSS, Coimbatore.

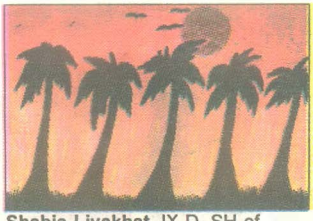
Kaushik Pratim Hazarika, IV B, Anand Academy, Capital Complex, Dispur, Guwahati, Assam-781006.



Sreevalsan K., IX B, BARHSS, Bovikanam, Muliyar, Kasaragod.

Eshmeet Sudan, VII, Christ School, Poonch, Jammu & Kashmir.

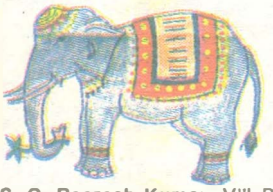
Radhika M., VIII B, Schoen Statt St. Mary's High School, Nagasandra, Bangalore-560073.



Shabia Liyakhat, IX D, SH of MCGHS, Kandassamkadavu.

Harshit Upadhyay, Kumharpatty, GNB Road, Tinsukia, Assam-786125.

V. Subash, V C, Navy Children School, Kochi-682004.



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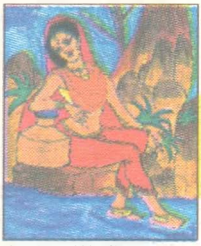
Stephy E.A., IX B, SH of MCGHS, Kandassamkadavu.



Agrima Wadhwa, Ryan International School, Site-1 Sector-40, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001.

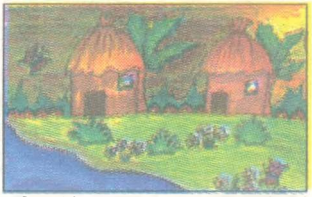
Thejas P.H., V EM, St. Anne's Convent, Siddapur, Kodagu, Karnataka.

Akansha Arora, Ryan International School, Site-1 Sector-40, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001.

L. Shanmuga Priya, VIII, Jaivabai Girls Higher Secondary School, Covai Dt., Tirupur.

Kirti Dhiman, V B, Tender Heart School, Chandigarh.

Akanksha Matta, Flat No. 1007, IFCI Apartments, Sector-23, Plot-4, Dwaraka, N. Delhi-75.

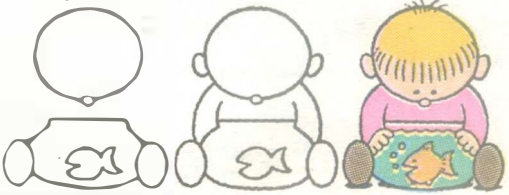


Surbhi Gupta, Ryan International School, Site-1 Sector-40, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001.

Kavya K., VI C, Schoen Statt St. Mary's High School, Nagasandra, Bangalore-560073.

How to Draw

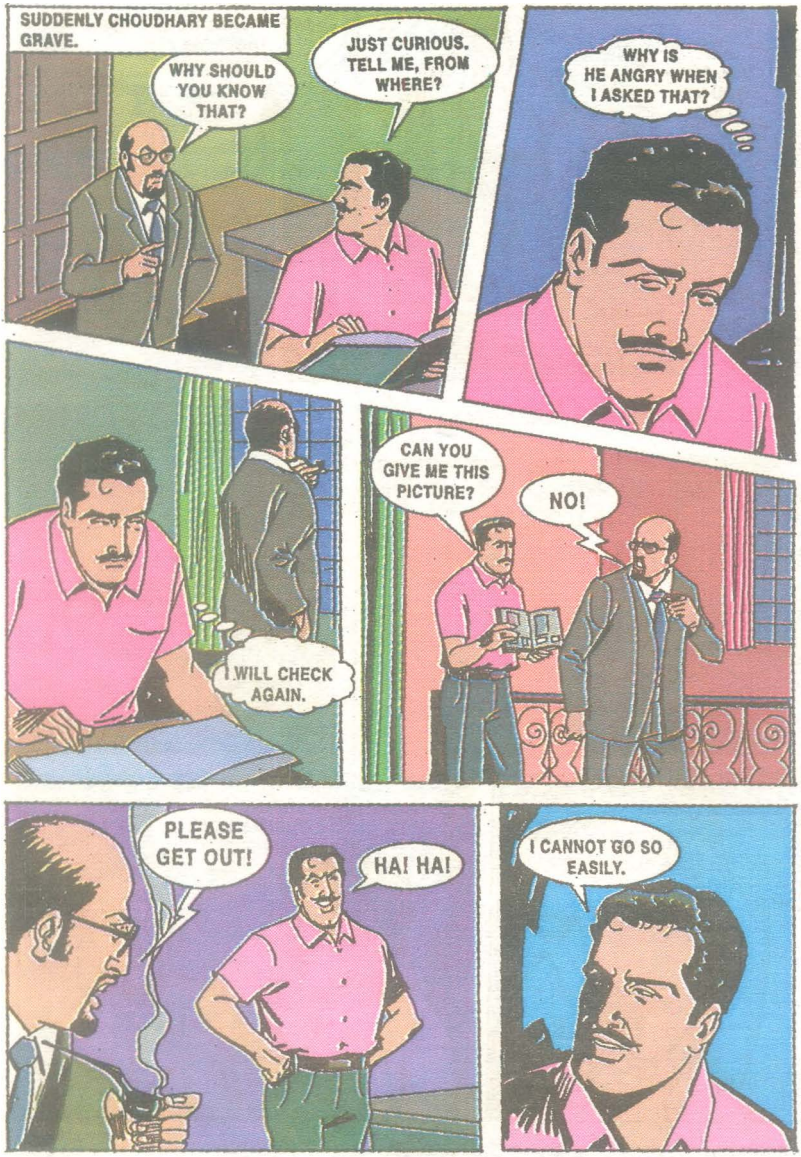
a boy and his fish

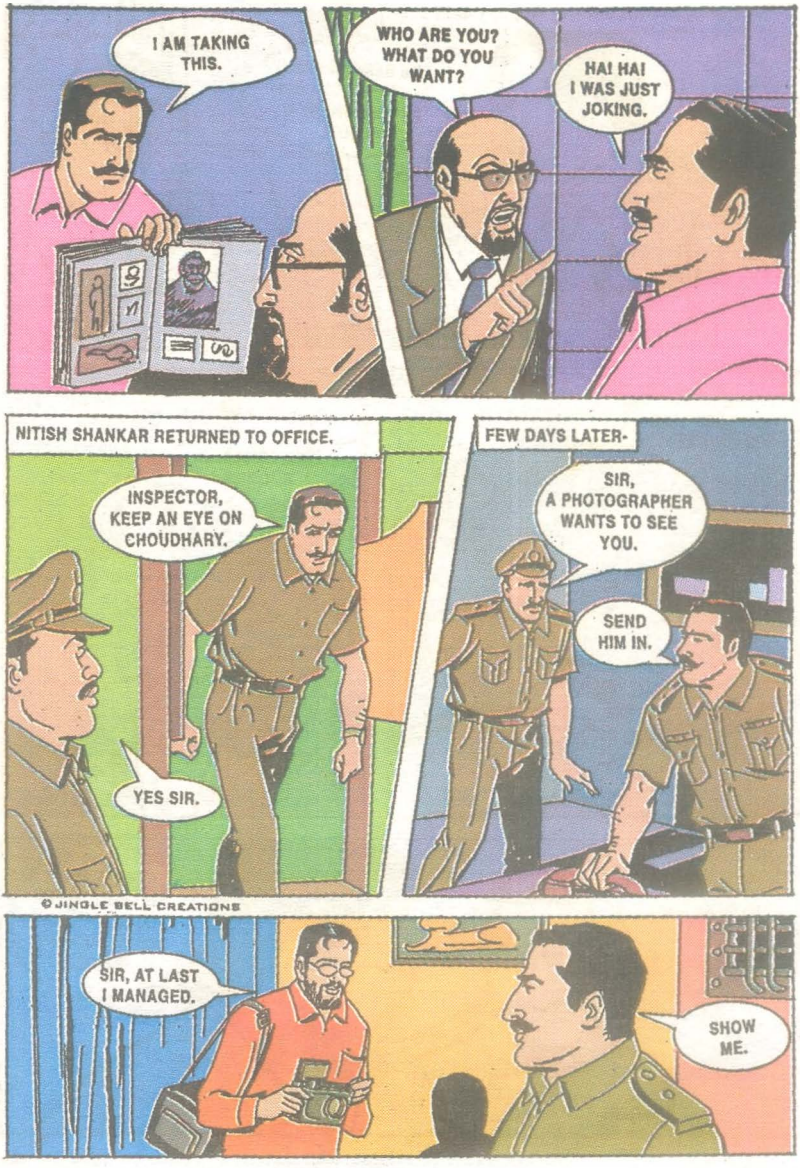


Gorilla Palace

SOON AT CHOUDHARY'S RESIDENCE-
SIR, I AM NITHIS SHANKAR. I WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO YOU.
YES, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
ZOOLOGY IS MY FAVOURITE SUBJECT.
FEW YEARS BACK I READ AN ARTICLE BY YOU IN A SCIENCE JOURNAL.
CHOUDHARY'S FACE TURNED PLEASANT.
THE ARTICLE ABOUT THE SPECIES, FACING EXTINCTION?
YES.)

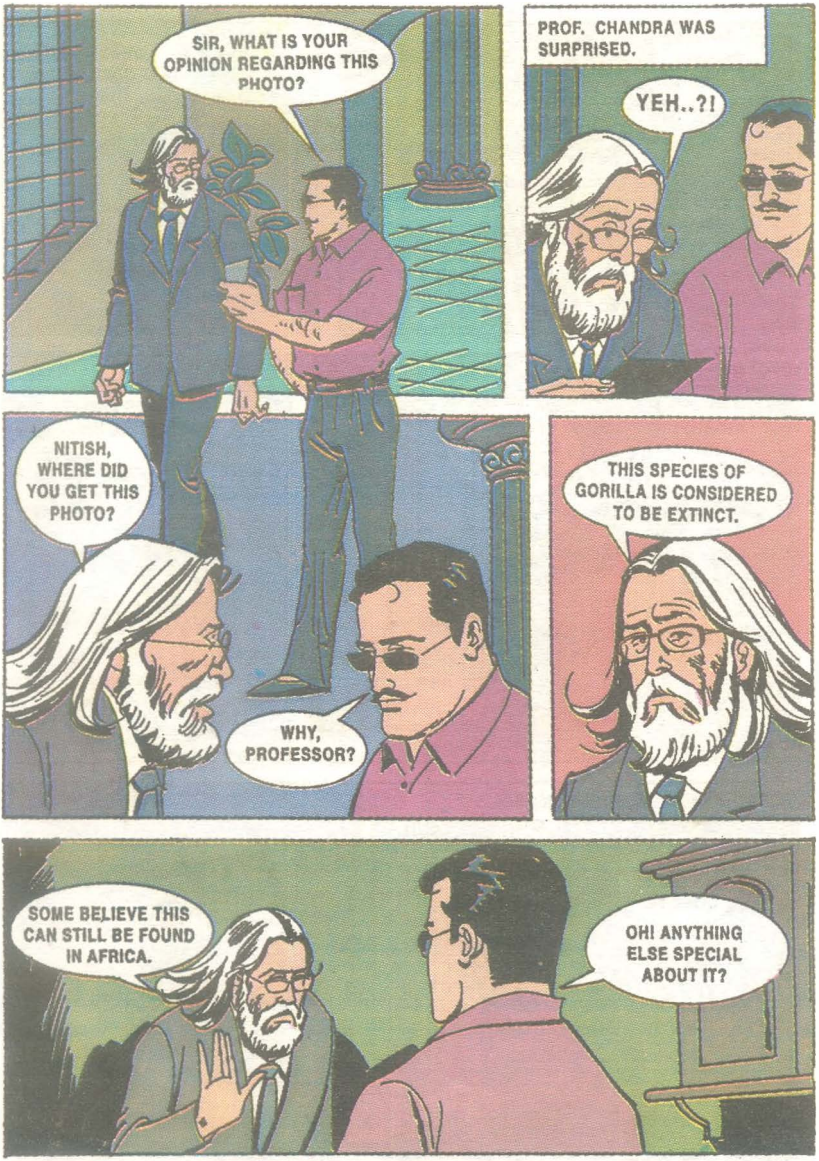
NO DOUBT CROSSED CHOUDHARY'S MIND.
COME, I WILL SHOW YOU MY ALBUM.
PERHAPS AFTER A FEW YEARS WE MAY SEE THESE ONLY IN PICTURES.
CURIOUSLY NITISH SHANKAR WENT THROUGH THE ALBUM.
AT LAST-
WHERE DID YOU TAKE THIS PHOTO?
OH... THAT..!


SUDDENLY CHOUDHARY BECAME GRAVE.
WHY SHOULD YOU KNOW THAT?
JUST CURIOUS. TELL ME, FROM WHERE?
WHY IS HE ANGRY WHEN I ASKED THAT?
I WILL CHECK AGAIN.
CAN YOU GIVE ME THIS PICTURE?
NO!
PLEASE GET OUT!
HA! HA!
I CANNOT GO SO EASILY.


I AM TAKING THIS.
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HA! HA! I WAS JUST JOKING.
NITISH SHANKAR RETURNED TO OFFICE.
INSPECTOR, KEEP AN EYE ON CHOUDHARY.
YES SIR.
FEW DAYS LATER-
SIR, A PHOTOGRAPHER WANTS TO SEE YOU.
SEND HIM IN.
©JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
SIR, AT LAST I MANAGED.
SHOW ME.

NITISH SHANKAR STUDIED THE PHOTO CAREFULLY.
THE SAME SPECIES OF APE WHICH I SAW IN CHOUDHARY'S ALBUM.
WHERE DID YOU SPOT THIS CREATURE?
NEAR CHOUDHARY'S HOUSE.
ONE NIGHT HE WAS THERE FOR A LONG TIME LOITERING AROUND.
OHO!
WAS CHOUDHARY THERE AT THAT TIME?
THERE WAS NO LIGHT IN THE HOUSE. NEITHER ANY MOVEMENT INSIDE.

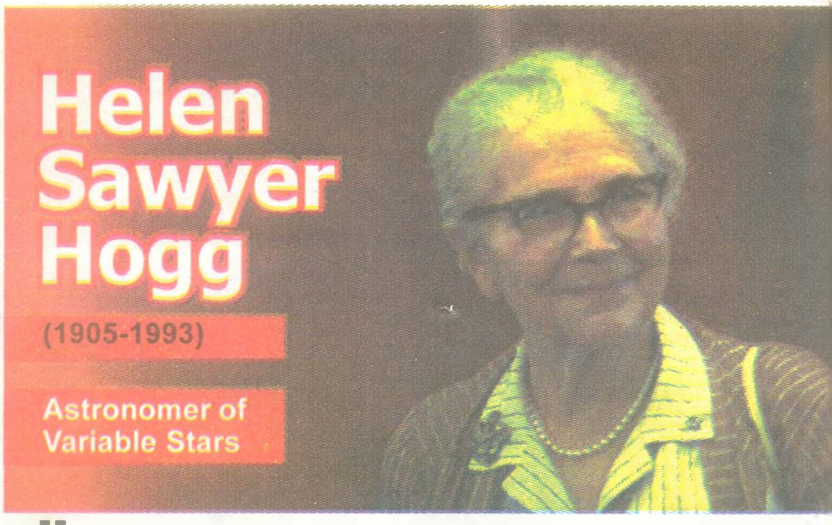
THANKS! YOU MAY GO!
YES SIR.
WHAT DOES THAT GORILLA WANT THERE?
NEXT DAY-
NITISH, ANY PROGRESS?
I WANT TO CONSULT A ZOOLOGIST.
PROF. CHANDRA IS MY FRIEND. I WILL CALL HIM.
SOON, AT PROF. CHANDRA'S HOUSE-
MR. NITISH SHANKAR? COME IN.


SIR, WHAT IS YOUR OPINION REGARDING THIS PHOTO?
PROF. CHANDRA WAS SURPRISED.
YEH..?!
NITISH, WHERE DID YOU GET THIS PHOTO?
WHY, PROFESSOR?
THIS SPECIES OF GORILLA IS CONSIDERED TO BE EXTINCT.
SOME BELIEVE THIS CAN STILL BE FOUND IN AFRICA.
OH! ANYTHING ELSE SPECIAL ABOUT IT?

THESE ARE LARGER THAN OTHER GORILLAS.
DID ANY OF OUR SCIENTISTS GO TO AFRICA RECENTLY?
NOBODY WHOM I KNOW.
ARE YOU SURE? WHAT ABOUT MR. CHOUDHARY?
OH, CHOUDHARY...
HE IS A BLACK CHAPTER IN THIS FIELD.
©JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
HE HAD BEEN TO AFRICA TEN YEARS BACK.
HE HAD STOLEN SOME FORMULAS FROM MR. GOPAL SHANKAR.

(To be continued)

-P. Gopalakrishnan



Helen Sawyer Hogg was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, USA, in 1905. Her father was a wealthy businessman who died when she was twelve. She attended the schools in Lowell. When Helen finished Lowell High School in 1921 she was rated among the best students of the school.

Helen was now eligible for college. But she was only sixteen and too young for university study. So she decided to wait one year and went back to Lowell High School. She joined the Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, on September 6, 1922.

Astronomy was not in her mind when she climbed the

Did You Know?

Neck ties were first worn in Croatia. That's why they were called cravats (cro-vats).

steps of Mount Holyoke College, although her mother had made her interested in the stars. Even as a child, Helen had learned about them from her mother. Whether at home during winter, or by a lake in New Hampshire where they went for summer, Mrs. Sawyer would point out the stars to her and tell her what she knew of them.

It was chemistry that she took as her subject of study in college at first. Then she met Dr. Anne Sewell Young, Professor and Head at the Department of Astronomy in Mount Holyoke. This meeting changed her life so completely that it was never the same again for Helen. To Dr. Young, astronomy was not only a branch of knowledge she excelled in, it was what made her life worth living and she imparted her excitement to her students. When Helen Sawyer changed over to astronomy and began to study with Dr. Young, she also got infected with this excitement and enthusiasm.

A complete eclipse of the sun was to take place that January. Dr. Young surprised the students and staff alike by arranging a special train to take the entire college to central Connecticut where they would get the best view of the rare event. The train stopped in the middle of a vast tree-less plain covered with snow. It was a morning of biting cold. The students and the daring few among professors stood in knee-deep snow. But they had a splendid view of a total eclipse of the sun, a sight which nature offers only rarely.

Did You Know?

The Fahrenheit scale is used for engineering and household purposes. The Celsius scale, formerly called the centigrade scale, is universally used for scientific measurement. Each of these scales has a corresponding absolute scale based on the absolute zero. The absolute Celsius scale is called the Kelvin scale. The absolute Fahrenheit scale is called the Rankine scale.

About that memorable day when they stood shivering in the snow, Helen Sawyer said later in life, " I never knew what it meant to be cold before that morning."

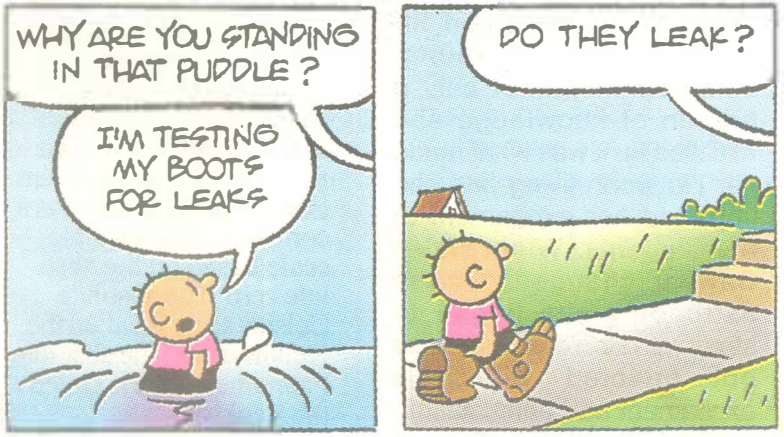
During her fourth year at Mount Holyoke a Harvard astronomer, Dr. Annie Jump Cannon visited the college. Helen was among the students whose work impressed the eminent professor. As a result she received a scholarship to study at Radcliffe, a college for women, in the Harvard University. There she had her first opportunity to study the group of stars known as 'globular clusters'. She investigated them jointly with the director of Harvard Observatory, Dr. Harlow Shapely. They published a joint paper in a Harvard journal, which also contained a report from a Canadian student of astronomy called Frank S. Hogg.

Did You Know?

Iron nails cannot be used in oak because the acid in the wood corrodes them.

Helen and Frank met and fell in love, but married

Bonnie and Booboo



only later when they had finished their college studies. After his course at Harvard, Frank went to England for a year, and Helen continued working on globular stars at Radcliffe, and took her Ph.D. When Frank returned from England they married.

Frank Hogg was appointed at Dominion Astrophysical Observatory at Victoria, British Columbia in Canada in 1931 and so they went to live there, but Helen didn't get job. She was however, permitted to use the telescope, though not every day.

The Hoggs spent three years in Victoria. During this time their first child, Sally, was born and Helen also resumed her research on variable stars in globular star clusters. She took pictures of eight globular star clusters that could be observed in Victoria's night skies. In the three years the Hoggs spent there she took near about 400 pictures of these star clusters.

Did You Know?

Pregnant women in New Guinea live alone until their baby is born.

Globular star clusters are very important to astronomers. Each cluster contains thousands of stars, some of them hundreds of thousands. Some of these stars turn bright and pale at regular intervals and are called variable stars. These variable stars

Did You Know?

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

are used by astronomers for finding out the distances of objects in space from the earth. The distances are measured through a process based on the amount of light a variable star gives off at its brightest and palest moments. The measurements are not possible every night of the year, for to take them astronomers need a clear sky when the stars are in their best position. It was possible only during those few summer months at Victoria. As Sally was born then, she had to be taken care of, too. Helen and Frank took her to the observatory during the nights. Helen would go up to the astronomer's chair at the top of the observatory to view the stars through the telescope and take measurements, while her husband on the ground attended to the baby. Helen would return at intervals to nurse and feed her. One night when she had put Sally back in her basket and gone up to the top of the observatory an eminent astronomer who was visiting there was surprised to hear a baby crying. "Oh, that's the Hoggs' baby,' Helen and Frank heard the director of the observatory inform the visiting astronomer.

When the David Dunlop Observatory was opened at the University of Toronto, Frank Hogg was given a job in the university's department of astronomy and his wife, a job at the observatory. It was Helen's first job with a salary. Both Helen and Frank were getting well known for their work, Helen increasingly so for her contribution to the knowledge of variable stars.

Two more children, both

Did You Know?

A group of goats is called a trip.

boys, were born to them. In 1938, that is, after about three years of moving to Toronto, Helen Sawyer was promoted as Research Assistant at the observatory.

Till this time her study of the stars had been confined to the skies of northern United States and southern Canada. But some of the star clusters can far better be seen in southern skies and she tried for a grant to go over to the south. A grant was sanctioned in 1939 and she went to the University of Arizona for the study. In summer that year she began her work and completed a

Try it... Which scene is slightly different from the other three?

(See page 97)

series of 279 pictures.

Writings of Helen Sawyer appeared in the science journals of America, Canada and other countries. In 1950 she received the Annie Jump Cannon Prize for her work in astronomy.

In the next year tragedy struck her. Her husband died suddenly. It was morning and

the children were waiting at the breakfast table for their father to arrive. Helen went into the bedroom to waken him and found him dead. Dr. Frank S. Hogg was only forty-six. He had become director of the Dunlop Observatory five years ago.

After her husband's death Helen Sawyer began taking up his responsibilities as well. She became busier than ever. She took over the weekly column he was writing in the 'Toronto Daily Star' and continued to write the column for more than 30 years. Through this column she explained astronomy in lucid, simple language to schoolchildren. It was useful for adults as well. Some of her best articles were put together in a book titled 'The Stars Belong to Everyone.'

She rose to a professorship at the university in 1957. Honours came flooding to her. She was made a fellow of the Royal Society Of Canada, President of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, President of the Royal Canadian Institute, President of the American Association of Variable Star Observers, and Programme Director for Astronomy at the National Science Foundation in Washington. In her honour, the International Astronomical Union even named a minor planet between Jupiter and Mars "Sawyer Hogg." Dr. Helen Sawyer Hogg, dedicated to the study of the stars worked at her beloved David Dunlop Observatory until the day she died in 1993. ■

The Adventures of Robin Hood - 3

One morning, Robin Hood told his men, "Our life has of late been rather tame; I'm going out to look for adventure. But you remain here in the greenwood, my men. If I'm in danger, I shall blow three times on my bugle, and you must hurry to my aid."

He walked through the forest until he reached a broad stream, which was bridged by only a narrow plank.

As Robin walked up to this bridge, he saw a tall, stout stranger approaching from the other side. He quickened his pace in order to cross first. But then, he saw the stranger doing the same. He called out, "Stand back, and let the better man cross first!"

"In that case you should stand back," retorted the stranger, "for, I'm the better man."

"That we shall see presently," said Robin. "Stand where you are,

or you'll get an arrow between your ribs! Mind you!"

"You're a coward," replied the stranger. "You're armed with a good bow, while I have only a staff. How then can it be a fair fight?"

"No one has ever called me a coward," said Robin. "I'll put away my bow and arrows, and if you'll only wait a moment, I shall go and cut myself a cudgel, so that we may fight fairly."

"With pleasure," answered the stranger.

Robin cut himself a strong staff from an oak tree and returned to the stranger. He noticed that his adversary was taller than him, being a full 7 ft tall, and also considerably more hefty. But this did not deter him.

The two contestants met on the bridge. Each gave as good as he got, and both proved equally well-matched. They fought relentlessly for a good one hour, occasionally stopping to rest. At last, Robin gave the stranger a blow on the ribs that sent him reeling. He nearly fell off the bridge, but recovered quickly and dealt Robin a dexterous blow that cracked his forehead and left it bleeding. Mad with anger, Robin struck out with all his might. But the stranger warded off the blow and followed up with one of his own that sent Robin tumbling into the water.

Being a good sport, Robin burst out laughing at his own plight. He got up, waded to the bank and climbed out, saying, "Give me your hand, stranger – you're brave and strong indeed!" Taking his bugle, he blew three loud blasts on it.

All at once, the silent forest reverberated with the sound of running feet. Robin's men burst into the scene, and one

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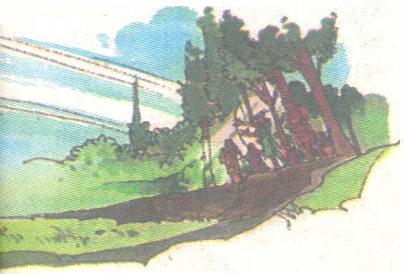
of them cried out in horror, "Good master, what happened to you? You're wet from head to foot!"

"It was this stout fellow who threw me into the water, and gave me a good thrashing, besides!" answered Robin laughingly.

"Then, he shall not go without a thrashing and a ducking himself!" cried out the men, and all together, they fell upon the stranger. But he was ready for them, and struck out right and left with his staff. His blows were swift and effective. But he was badly outnumbered, and was at last overpowered by the outlaws' combined efforts.

"Stop! He is a fine fighter, and no harm should befall him!" cried Robin. Turning to the stranger, he asked, "Will you stay with me and join my band of merry men? You'll be paid 40 pounds as fees, and shall share in our joys and sorrows. You'll feed on good venison and ale, and be my right-hand man – for I never saw such a good cudgel player in all my life before! So tell me – do you accept?"



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"I don't know," answered the stranger sulkily. "If you handle a bow and arrow as badly as you handled that oak staff, you're not fit to be called an archer. But if there's anyone in your band who can shoot better than I, then I shall think of joining you."

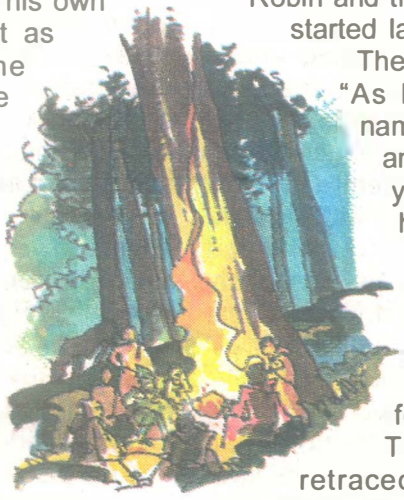
"You're a saucy fellow indeed! But I accept your challenge," said Robin, and he instructed one of his men to cut a piece of bark and set it on an oak tree 80 yards away. This done, he asked the stranger to choose a bow for himself and try his hand at striking the target.

The stranger chose the strongest bow of the lot. As Robin and his men sat on the grass, watching, he fixed an arrow to the bow and let it loose deftly, sending it so straight down the path that it

struck the target right at its centre. "Top that if you can!" he challenged. The outlaws applauded at his fine marksmanship.

"That's a fine shot indeed," acknowledged Robin. "Now let me see what I can do."

He took up his own bow and shot as skilfully as he could. The arrow flew straight towards the target, where it struck the stranger's shaft and split it into splinters. Then all the outlaws leapt to their feet and shouted for joy that their master had shot so well.



"Now that's a shot indeed – never have I seen the likes of it before!" cried the stranger.

"So you agree to join my band?" asked Robin with a smile. "And what is your name, my friend?"

"It's John Little," answered the stranger.

One of the outlaws, Will Stutely, burst out laughing. "What an apt name for a man of your size! You're indeed little, and small of bone and sinew. So we shall rechristen you Little John." Hearing this, Robin and the others also started laughing.

Then Robin said, "As he says, the name fits you well, and Little John, you shall be henceforth. So come, my merry men, let's welcome this 'infant' into our fold!"

They all retraced their steps into the very heart of the forest, where stood a great oak tree. Below this was a seat of green moss where Robin Hood and his men often indulged in feasting and merrymaking. Here they built a fire and had a grand feast to welcome the newest member of their band – Little John. *(To continue)*

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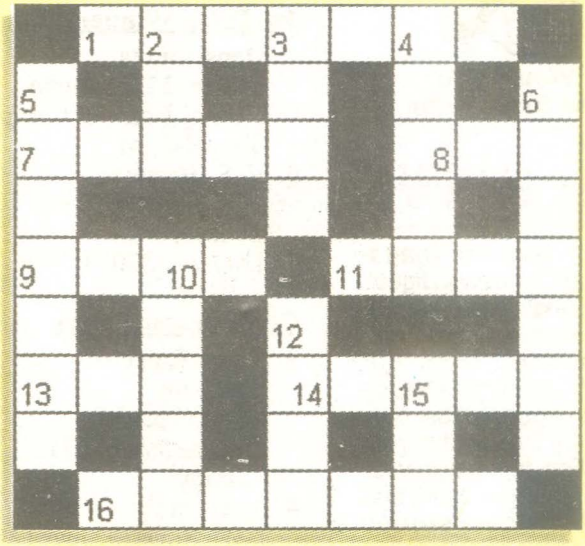
Crossword

- K. S. Geethavani, Coimbatore



Across:

1. A flat highland (7)
7. First letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
8. An animal's foot (3)
9. Cinema or movie (4)
11. Thin, skinny, slender (4)
13. Bite, chew and swallow (3)
14. Faithful, trusty (5)
16. Large wave caused by earthquake (7)

Down:

2. One time around a racetrack (3)
3. Amphibian like a frog (4)
4. A fruit (5)
5. Confused, puzzled, perplexed (7)
6. Stars seem to do this (7)
10. Our National flower (5)
12. Narrow secluded valley (4)
15. Edible starchy root (3)

(See page 97)

Would you like to write for

RASHTRA DEEPIKA
CHILDREN'S DIGEST

Your favourite magazine the Children's Digest, invites quality articles, features, stories, poems, cartoons, etc., from our young readers. Please send in your pieces, duly vetted by the Head of your institution, along with your full name, age, class and school. Your stories should be typed or neatly handwritten. We will make all efforts to publish your pieces.

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   2/1 Raj Bhawan Campus
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3. Revar Rajeev
   'Shaivam'
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4. Ashwini P
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   Mumbai - 400062.
5. Namratha Nisha
   Std X
   Jawahar Navodaya
   Vidyalaya
   Mudipu, Kurnadu Post
   Bantwal Tq, Mangalore.

Congratulations, dear young winners!

New Year

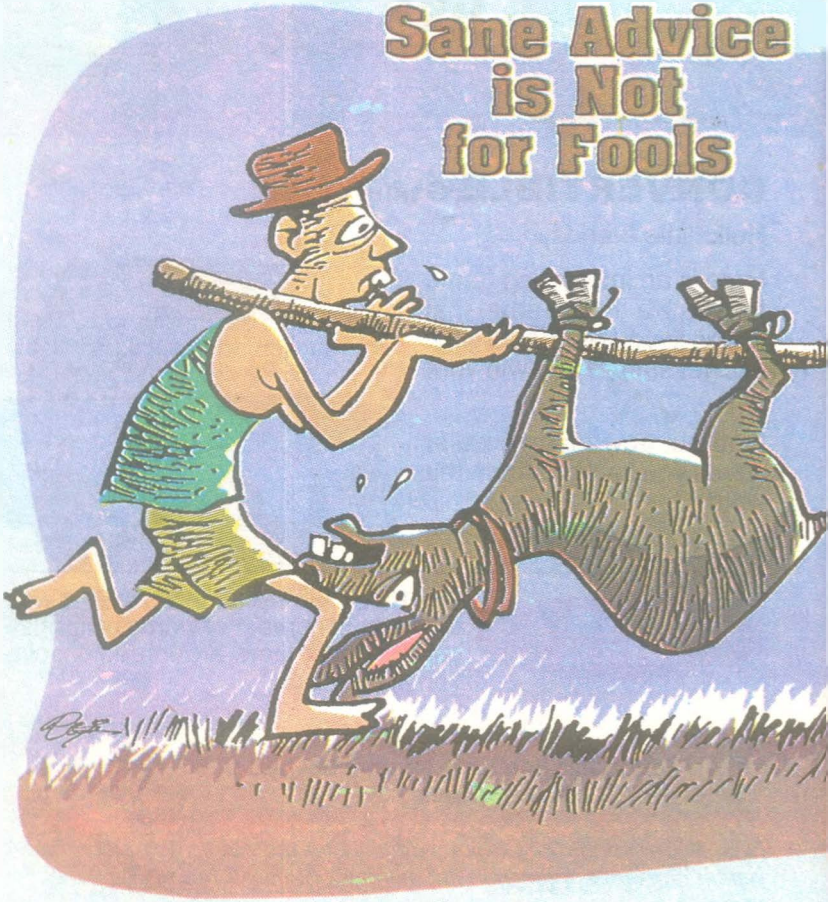
- Thoughts to Keep in Mind

- The most useless thing to do.....Worry
- The greatest joy.....Giving
- The greatest loss.....Loss of self-respect
- The most satisfying work.....Helping others
- The ugliest personality trait.....Selfishness
- The most endangered species.....Dedicated leaders
- Our greatest natural resource.....Our youth
- The greatest "shot in the arm".....Encouragement
- The greatest problem to overcome.....Fear
- The most effective sleeping pill.....Peace of mind
- The most crippling failure disease.....Excuses
- The most powerful force in life.....Love
- The most dangerous pariah.....A gossiper
- The world's most incredible computer.....The brain!
- The worst thing to be without..... Hope
- The deadliest weapon.....The tongue
- The two most power-filled words....."I Can"
- The greatest asset.....Faith
- The most worthless emotion.....Self-pity
- The most prized possession.....Integrity
- The most beautiful attire.....SMILE!
- The most powerful channel of communication....Prayer
- The most contagious spirit.....Enthusiasm

Sane Advice is Not for Fools

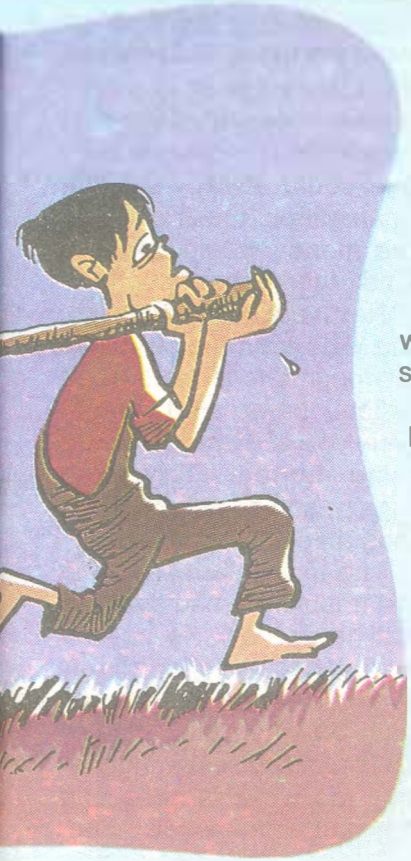
- R. K. Murthi, New Delhi

Once upon a time, in a village, lived a rather foolish farmer with his wife and only son. He spent all the money he earned. He did not save a paisa for difficult times. He held grand



parties. He hosted dinners in style. All the villagers joined the festivities. They had a good time at his expense.

A few friends warned him. "You are acting foolishly. Why should you hold such parties? Of what use are they to you? Good times do not last forever. The rains may fail; or floods may destroy standing crops; or wild winds may cause severe loss. Or the yield from the land may just turn out to be poor. Where will you find money then to manage your home, till the next crop is harvested? So, put by some money after every successful harvest for difficult times," his friends advised him.



But he would not take their advice. He said, "Tomorrow will look after itself."

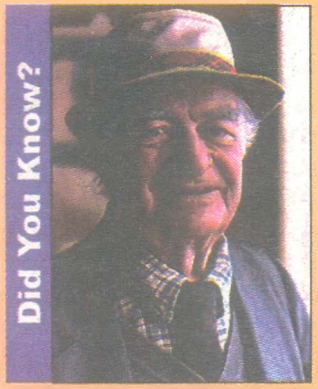
"That is the most idiotic reply we ever heard," his friends shouted in anger.

"Leave me alone. I know what I should do. But I shall not forgo the pleasures of today. I am not going to worry about the future. The future will look after itself."

"See, can anyone get more foolish than that?" his friends told each other. "We are sorry for you."

"Have you anything more to say?" the farmer bellowed like an angry bull.

"Listen, if crops fail, we too will be in difficulties. So we may not be able to help you," the friends tried to make him see



Linus Pauling is the only person to have been awarded two unshared Nobel Prizes - the 1954 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and the 1962 Nobel Peace Prize.

reason.

"And you say you are my friends?" the farmer was furious. He told them to leave. "I will never come to you for help. Never," he screamed as they departed, sad that he was such a dimwit that he could not see what was good for him. They felt sorry for him.

One of them secretly met his wife, and told her to caution her man. She tried. But the farmer shouted at her. "You silly woman! How dare you to give me advice? I am the master of this house. Everyone in this house, you and our son, shall do what I say. Understand, you wretch!" he silenced her.

She turned away, sobbing. There was nothing that she could do. But she worried about the future. And without his knowledge she saved some money and made gold ornaments. "Gold is precious. One could always sell the ornaments in times of need. The money would come in handy then," she thought.

Next year, the rains failed. The yield from the land was very poor. The farmers faced difficult times. But almost every one of them had saved some money. They lived frugally, and somehow made ends meet.

The foolish farmer was in real trouble. He had spent all that he earned. He had no money. Nor could he borrow from friends. He had shooed them off when they tried to make him see sense. Further they too were farmers and they had no money to spare.

"How shall I feed the family? He thought and he

thought. He could see no way out.

"Don't worry," said his wife. "I have some gold ornaments. You could sell them. And we could have enough to have the bare needs of life."

He was thrilled by the news.

He sold the ornaments, one by one. And he lived well for a few weeks. His wife tried to warn him to cut down on luxuries. But he would not listen.

Soon the last of the ornaments was sold. The farmer spent the money foolishly. Now he had only a donkey to call his own.

Did You Know?

An aye-aye is a kind of rare Madagascan monkey, and it drinks by dipping one of its fingers into water, and then drawing the finger across its mouth.

Did You Know?

The longest living cells in the body are brain cells which can live an entire lifetime.

"I will take the donkey to the cattle bazaar in the neighbouring town. It should fetch a good price," he told his wife.

She, poor woman, was in tears. She wrung her hands helplessly. She wished her husband had not been all that foolish.

The farmer set out with his son next morning. He led the donkey by a rope. His son walked beside him.

One of the passersby laughed at the farmer and said, "Why should both of you walk? You look quite old. Better ride the donkey. The lad can lead the animal."

"You said it," said the farmer, as he got on the donkey. The boy walked

along.

They covered some distance. Then they came across a relative. "These are real bad times, indeed. You are strong and sturdy, yet you ride the donkey and make your son walk," said the man.

The farmer immediately got off the donkey. He made his son ride the donkey.

Some time later, they came across a villager. He was rather surprised. "Why are you walking? Your donkey, I think, is strong enough to carry both you and your son," said he.

The farmer did not waste a second. He too sat on the donkey. The animal struggled, the farmer making all sorts of funny sounds to keep the donkey on the move.

All went well till they met a neighbour who loved to play tricks on others. He asked, softly, "Where are you going?"

"To the cattle bazaar to sell the donkey."

"Have you any idea how bedraggled the donkey will look if both of you ride it all the way to the distant bazaar? It will fetch you a real good price only if you carry it to the bazaar so that it looks fresh and strong when you offer it for sale," he said.

The farmer and his son tied up the legs of the donkey. They got hold of a pole and carried the donkey, its legs atop, its body

Riddles

Walk on the living,
They don't even mumble.
Walk on the dead,
They mutter and grumble.
What are they?

(See page 97)

Did You Know?

A hippo can run faster than man.

swinging.

Soon they reached a river. They headed for a bridge. Many people saw them carrying the donkey. They had never seen a more foolish act. They burst into laughter. Many children started to boo and jeer. Some of them threw stones at the donkey. The donkey got scared. It tugged at the ropes that bound its legs. The rope snapped. The donkey fell into the rolling waters of the river and was swept away.

"I have lost everything," the farmer cried in disgust.

He returned home, with a long face. His son kept right behind him.

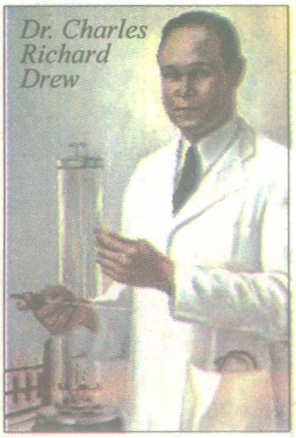
He told his wife what had happened. "I now know who a fool is," she replied. "He never listens to sane advice of friends, yet takes tips from every passerby."

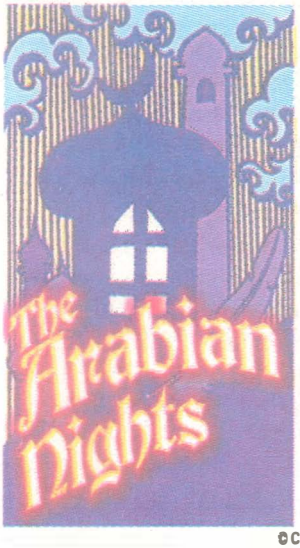
For the first time in her life, her husband did not shout at her and say, "Shut up." Instead, he nodded his head and said, "I have learnt my lesson."

■

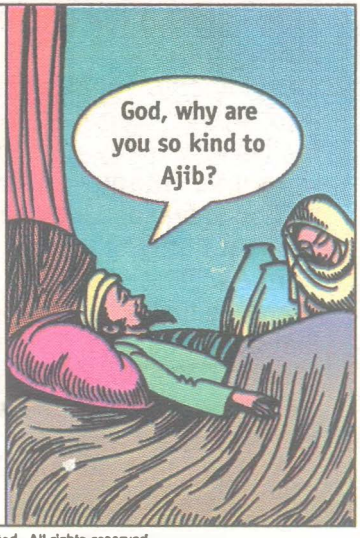
Blood Bank

The idea of a blood bank was pioneered by Dr. Charles Richard Drew (1904-1950). Dr. Drew was an American medical doctor and surgeon who started the idea of a blood bank and a system for the long term preservation of blood plasma (he found that plasma kept longer than whole blood). His ideas revolutionized the medical profession and saved many, many lives. Dr. Drew set up and operated the blood plasma bank at the Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, NY. Drew's project was the model for the Red Cross' system of blood banks, of which he became the first director.


Dr. Charles Richard Drew



When that old envious neighbour heard of Ajib's newfound popularity, he was shocked. He became seriously ill again.



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Let me go and meet Ajib and see how best I can harm him.

Ajib was holding a discourse when the evil neighbour entered his house.

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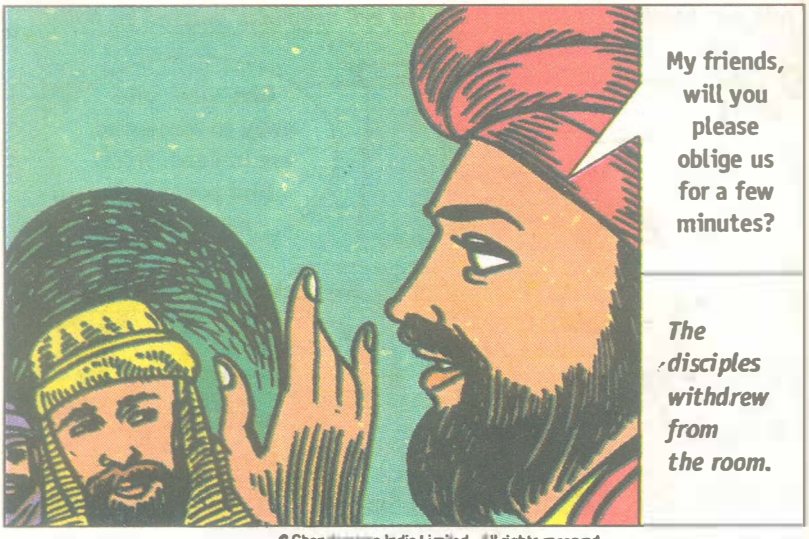
He approached Ajib with a request.

O master! May I talk to you privately for a few minutes?



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Can we take a stroll and discuss an important issue?

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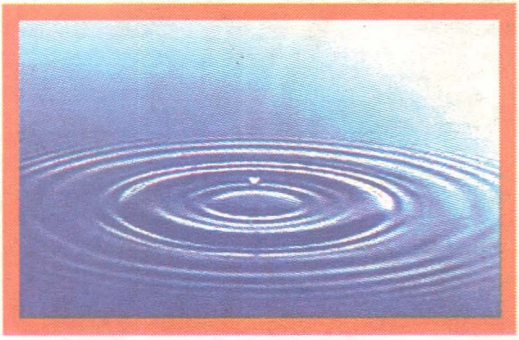
It was evening. The meadow was deserted, except for Ajib and his visitor. The man led Ajib to the old well at the end of the meadow.

-*Shhalu Ganglaani, Mumbai*



AQUA!

The essence of water can never be underestimated – the substance H20, is defined as a clear, thin liquid, lacking taste and smell, and essential for life. It is a medium in which all other nutrients are found. Three simple molecules, two hydrogen and one oxygen, bind together to form each molecule of water, the most abundant and important substance on earth and in the human body.

It may seem strange when feeling your firm muscles, that water occupies 60% of your living cells. Did you know that water comprises 90% of a baby's body and 60-65% of an adult's? According to research, our muscles are composed of 90% water, our liver is 69% water, and even our bones are 22% water. Clearly, this abundance is associated with water being the most important nutrient.

Water acts as a universal solvent in which electrolytes (salts, acids, and bases)

ionize, and in which chemical reactions can occur. Gases and wastes also dissolve in water, making it an efficient transport medium.

Since water is essential for all life, and drinking is important to health, drinking good water is still the best way to obtain our fluid requirements. The average human requirement is about three quarts of water per day. Although water has no specific time to be consumed, did you know that it is believed that it is best consumed at regular intervals throughout the day – one or two glasses upon awakening and an hour before each meal.

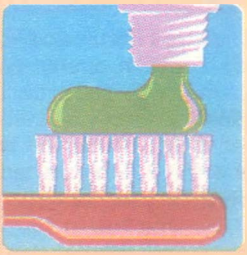
It is believed that water should not be drunk with or just after meals, as it can dilute digestive juices and reduce food digestion as well as nutrient assimilation. Some people even like to drink a glass or two in the evening to help flush out their systems overnight, even though this may result in getting up in the middle of the night to urinate. However, drinking water (about 8-10 glasses recommended per day) is very important in our daily diet. Enough drinking avoids problems such as constipation and dry skin.

Let's drink to good health and happiness then, shall we? Cheers!

■

Did You Know?

The earliest reference to toothpaste is in a manuscript from Egypt, in the 4th century AD. Pre-mixed toothpastes were first marketed in the 19th century, but became popular only after World War 1.



Fluoride started to be added to toothpastes in the 1950s. Different countries have different guidelines as to how much fluoride can be added to toothpastes.

Verbal Irony

You are taken aback when your mother pulls you up for being 'smart.' You counter with, 'If you think I am smart, why don't you let me make some smart decisions?' This is a classic example of verbal irony.

Verbal irony is a figure of speech. The speaker intends to be understood as meaning something that contrasts with the literal or usual meaning of what he says. It can come in the form of sarcasm, overstatement or understatement.

In sarcasm, the two stand in opposition. For example, a father discovers his son listening to loud music, instead of doing his homework, as he was set to minutes ago. Pointing to the music system he says sarcastically, "Don't let me tempt you from your duties, but when you're finished with your serious studies, maybe we could take some time out for recreation and do a little arithmetic."

The sentence 'The lady is not a bad cook' is an understatement and an ironic remark that the lady is quite a good cook. In overstatement, the meaning that ordinarily attaches to what is said is an exaggeration of what the speaker uses it to mean. For instance, a student going into a cinema during class hours realizes to his shock that his teacher was standing right behind him. 'I literally died,' he says. The word 'literally' here is itself being used figuratively, to mean something like 'really' and in the sense of 'not really but almost'.

Thus the different sorts of disagreement between the meaning of what is said and what in fact is meant with on the particular occasion give rise to different kinds of verbal irony.

Persons who became words — ZEPPELIN

Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin (1838 - 1917) was the founder of the Zeppelin airship company. He was born in Konstanz, Grand Duchy of Baden (now part of Baden-Württemberg, Germany). He joined the army and was promoted as General of Cavalry in 1906. From the 1880s, he was experimenting with guidable balloons and, in 1899 he started constructing the first guidable rigid airship which he used for three ascents over the Bodensee. The first aircraft of this type flew in 1900 near Friedrichshafen, Germany. After many trials and tribulations, *Zeppelin* was able to form a company, Luftschiffbau-Zeppelin, to manufacture this type of airship. The airship was called *Zeppelin* after its inventor. Today, the word zeppelin is used to refer to any similar, cigar-shaped rigid airship.

Logimagic

1. Put the right letters in the blank cubes shown below in such a way that each vertical column is a three-letter word, and the centre horizontal row spells the name of a familiar sea animal.

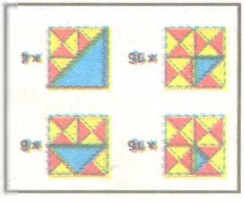
2. How many triangles (counting those of all possible sizes) can you find in the illustration below?

3. See the letters given below? Your task is to cross out nine letters in such a way that the remaining letters spell out a single word.

Answers

1. TEAAPC
OYSTER
PEKENY

2. There are 44 triangles of all possible sizes in this figure. The exact numbers of the triangles of every size and shape are shown in the respective diagrams below.



3. Cross out every other letter, starting with the first letter. This eliminates NINE LETTERS, leaving A SINGLE WORD as shown below.

~~N~~ A ~~I~~ S ~~N~~ I ~~E~~ N ~~L~~ G ~~E~~ L ~~T~~ E ~~T~~ W ~~E~~ O ~~R~~ R ~~S~~ D

NINE LETTERS

A SINGLE WORD

Tales Behind Inventions

Jeans

-Jee

Levi Strauss

No sartorial item has captured the fancy of the modern youngster as jeans. However, jeans happened more by accident than by design. It was the creation of an astute business mind that didn't like wasting anything.

Levi Strauss was a young peddler. The story of jeans begins with the California 'gold rush' of 1849. Great deposits of the yellow metal were found in the State of California in the USA and people eager to get rich quickly rushed there across vast distances of plains, forests, deserts and hills. As the American west was still wild to a great extent, with no sophisticated modes of travel, most people went on foot or in bullock carts risking attacks from the native people whose land they were invading.

Wherever people collect in large numbers there arises a

Multiple Nobel Prize Winners

The work of the International Committee of the Red Cross has been honoured by a Nobel Peace Prize three times.

demand for requirements, and merchants and peddlers hasten there. Thus Levi Strauss also reached California, loaded with goods. Among other things, he had also brought a huge stock of canvas, thinking that people would need it to make tents and the covers for bullock or horse drawn wagons.

Did You Know?

The Azande people of the Sudan gently wave newborn babies through smoke to protect them against witchcraft and to help them grow up strong and healthy.

Strauss was being over-smart. There was little demand for his canvas and most of it was left unsold. But Strauss was, if anything, resourceful. Meditating on how to get the load of canvas off his hands he observed that the pants the prospectors and gold diggers wore got torn far too fast. They needed something that stood hours of hard labour. Here, as dress material, his canvas would be ideal. He sought out a tailor and hired him to make pants from the huge stock of canvas he had.

Well, his business venture clicked. His pants were in high demand and soon he became a manufacturer of ready-to-wear pants, which nothing could beat in durability. After a while he changed from canvas to denim and dyed it blue. People soon started calling the new pants jeans, as it resembled a dress material from an Italian city, Genoa.

CHANDAMAMA'S
MANDOO
DARING MANDOO
1
It is a warm afternoon and Mandoo is dozing on a small rock under the shade of a tree.
ZZZNOOOORE...
BRRRRR...
Suddenly he's woken up by a loud roar...
RRR...
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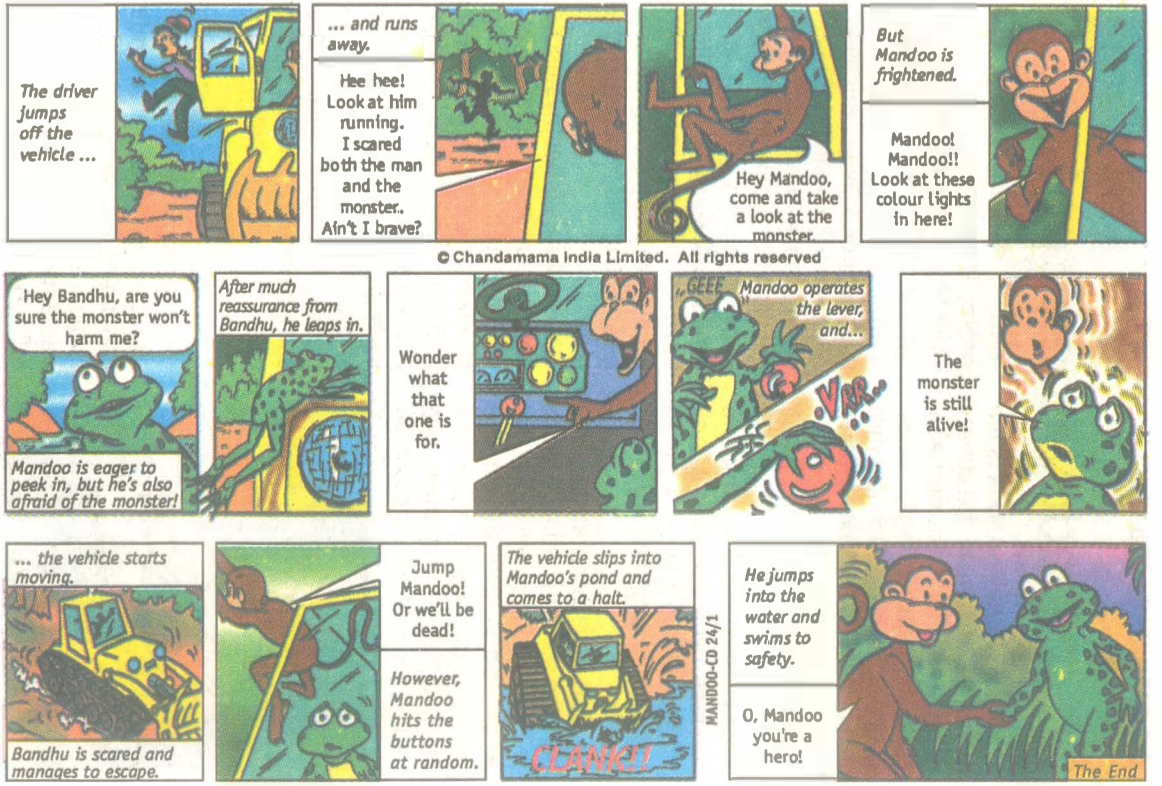
R...?
...and sees a bulldozer uprooting whole trees from the ground.
AAAHHH...
A MONSTER!
His scream wakes up his friend Bandhu Bandhar.
Mandoo, what happened?
What happened?!! Look at that monster, you idiot!
Yeh ! It's eating up the forest.
Leave him to me. I'll take care.
Bandhu leaps down the tree ...
... on to the monster.
There is somebody inside the monster.
MANDOO-CD 24/1
GRRRR...RRR
The driver gets scared
EEEEK
...and stops the vehicle


The driver jumps off the vehicle ...
... and runs away.
Hee hee! Look at him running. I scared both the man and the monster. Ain't I brave?
Hey Mandoo, come and take a look at the monster.
But Mandoo is frightened.
Mandoo! Mandoo!! Look at these colour lights in here!
Hey Bandhu, are you sure the monster won't harm me?
Mandoo is eager to peek in, but he's also afraid of the monster!
After much reassurance from Bandhu, he leaps in.
Wonder what that one is for.
GEEE... Mandoo operates the lever, and...
VAR...
The monster is still alive!
... the vehicle starts moving.
Bandhu is scared and manages to escape.
Jump Mandoo! Or we'll be dead!
However, Mandoo hits the buttons at random.
The vehicle slips into Mandoo's pond and comes to a halt.
CLANG!!
He jumps into the water and swims to safety.
O, Mandoo you're a hero!
The End

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MANDOO-CD 24/1

Daddy-Long-Legs

At 17, Jerusha Abbott is the oldest inhabitant of the dreary John Grier Home for orphans. She has grudgingly been educated up to high school, while being made to work like a galley slave, doing menial jobs around the orphanage. She has a flair for writing, but this is not appreciated by the matron and trustees, who consider it their duty to stamp out all signs of individuality and creativity in their wards.

One day, the matron gives Jerusha some information which will turn her life upside down. An anonymous trustee on the orphanage board, who has hitherto helped only boys, has expressed interest in her after reading a funny essay she wrote, lampooning the John Grier Home. Believing that she has the potential to become a writer, he has decided to sponsor her college education. All she has to do in return is to send him a monthly letter, detailing her progress. She is to know him only as Mr. John Smith, and will send her letters care of his secretary. 'Mr. Smith', who apparently detests letter-writing, will never send any reply.

Jerusha calls her mysterious benefactor 'Daddy-Long-Legs', as she had seen his long shadow on the wall. She starts writing him chatty letters, sharing with him her joys, her feeling of insecurity about her social status, and her college news. As this one-sided correspondence progresses, so does the relationship with her unknown guardian.

Daddy-Long-Legs, an epistolary novel written by Jean Webster in 1912, is a lively coming-of-age story, filled with humour and pathos, and one that adolescents everywhere can relate to.

E A R N
WHILE YOU
L E A R N

Rashtra Deepika Children's Digest offers you a unique opportunity to **earn Rs. 250/-** for 10 annual subscriptions.

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(Please write in capitals)

Name:..... ..... Address:..... .... Pin:..... Phone:.....	Name:..... ..... Address:..... .... Pin:..... Phone:.....
Name:..... ..... Address:..... .... Pin:..... Phone:.....	Name:..... ..... Address:..... .... Pin:..... Phone:.....

Answers

SLYLOCK FOX

Solution: Hotel room doors open into the room. If a thief had escaped from the door, the cup would have been moved aside. Instead of phoning the insurance company, Slylock suggests she call a defence attorney.

TRUE OR FALSE

1) True. 2) False. Moose live in Alaska, Rocky Mountains states, northern New England and New York. 3) False. Wolves and bears hunt moose.

QUIZ OF THE MONTH

1. Two faces in opposite directions.
2. Numa Pompilius
3. Only ten.
4. March 25
5. Rosh Hashanah
6. Muharram
7. Assam
8. Coorg
9. January 26
10. Cortes Generales
11. Samuel Beckett
12. Andhra Pradesh
13. Sculptures cut from volcanic rock, in Easter Island, South Pacific Ocean.

TRY IT...

Page 41
Cat's mouth, drop, bottle, mouse's tail, fence and hat.
Page 65
Number 2.

CROSSWORD

Across:
1. Plateau 7. Alpha 8. Paw 9. Film 11. Lean 13. Eat 14. Loyal 16. Tsunami

Down:
2. Lap 3. Toad 4. Apple 5. Baffled 6. Twinkle 10. Lotus 12. Glen 15. Yam

RIDDLES

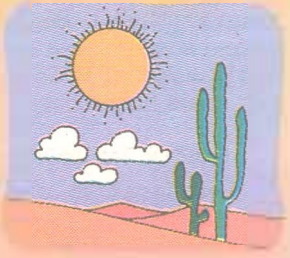
Leaves

Did You Know?

A group of kangaroos is called a mob.

Proverbs

- A soft answer turneth away wrath.
- Do not push the river, it will flow by itself.
- A father is a banker provided by nature.
- A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.
- Guard well thy thoughts, for thoughts are heard in heaven.
- All sunshine makes a desert.
- The first step of wisdom is to know what is false.



- Fear less, hope more,
  eat less, chew more,
  whine less, breathe more,
  talk less, say more,
  hate less, love more,
  and all good things will be yours.
- An army of sheep led by a lion would defeat an army of lions led by a sheep.